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UDF govt. outlines 'dream projects'

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Burnham's win spells trouble for Starmer

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GRUELLING TASK

The pressures of counting India

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MOMENT TO CHERISH

Mexico marches into the knockout round

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Right to walk on secure footpaths a fundamental right: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday, in a judgment, declared the freedom to walk on demarcated and well-maintained footpaths a fundamental right which has priority over movement by motorised vehicles. The court highlighted the need to lay down a statutory framework, not only for declaring the right to walk a fundamental right, but also to recognise the duty-bearers.

"If a road exists, there must then be a duty to ensure that a footpath is demarcated and maintained for the walkers. This is an enforceable duty, Justice P.S. Narasimha held.

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PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 8

Delhi HC upholds curbs on Telegram

Centre followed procedure as per Section 69A of IT Act and gave reasons for invoking emergency powers, says court

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday upheld the Centre's temporary ban on messaging platform Telegram, noting that the government's action was proportionate and justified in view of the alleged use of the platform by organised cheating networks linked to the NEET (UG), 2026, controversy.

Dismissing Telegram's challenge to the June 16 emergency blocking order, the court found that the Union government had followed the procedure prescribed under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act and had recorded adequate reasons for invoking its emergency powers.

A significant aspect of the ruling is the court's endorsement of the government's interpretation of Section 69A.

'Entire platform'

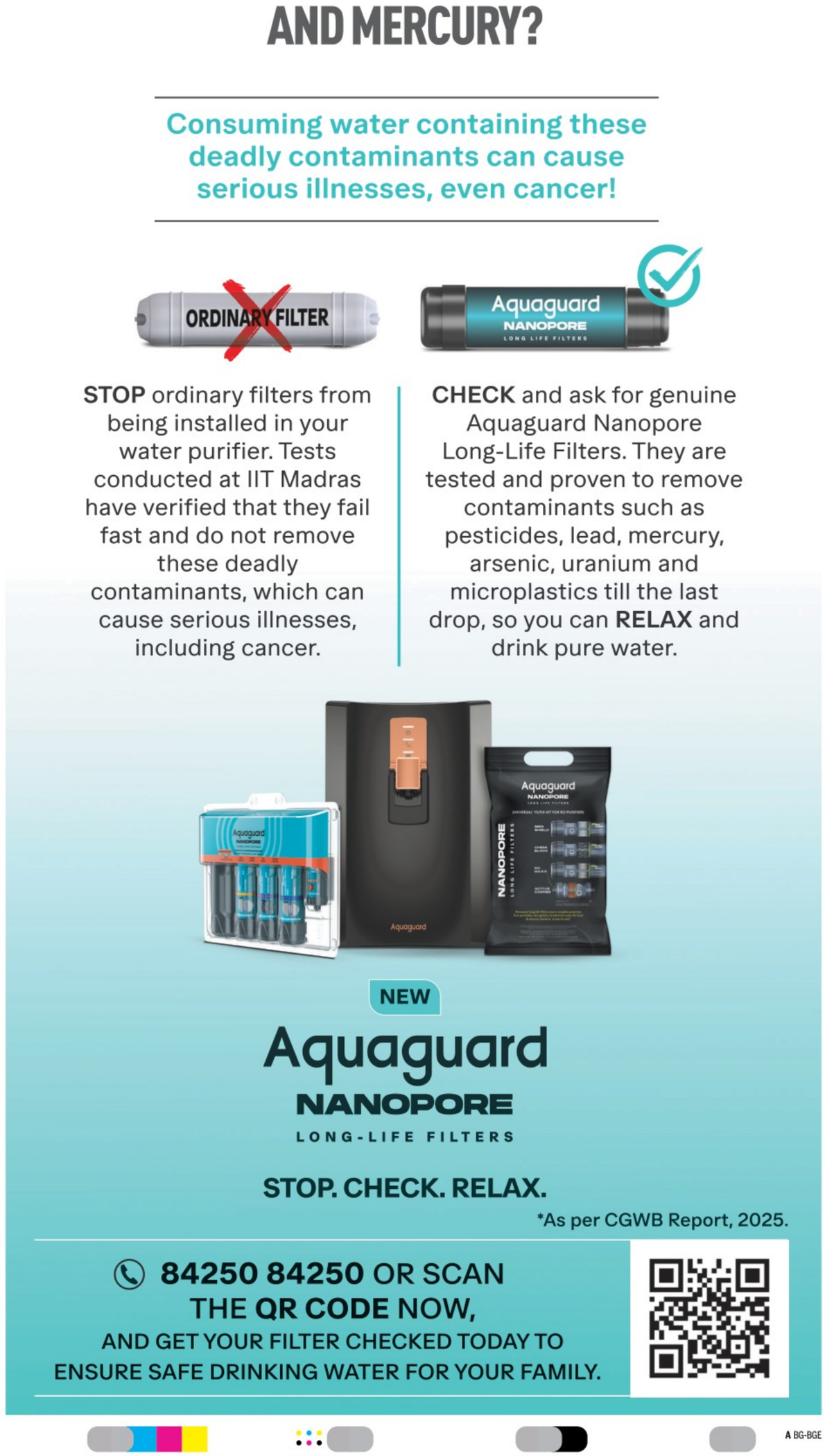
Rejecting Telegram's argument that the provision permits blocking only specific content and not an entire platform, the court held that the Act's broad definition of "information" encompasses software and computer programmes. Since Telegram functions through software infrastructure constituting a "computer resource", the government was legally empowered to direct a temporary block on the platform, the court said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Court's endorsement

What the Delhi High Court said in the Telegram case

- Centre empowered under Section 69A of the IT Act to restrict 'entire platform' access
- Centre has cited circulation of purported examination papers and fraudulent activities targeting students as reason
- Govt. order not disproportionate as attempts to resolve through channel-specific take-downs failed
- Temporary restrictions were proportionate to the objective of preventing misinformation and criminal activity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Lead Pollution Alarming: 69 Rivers in India Contaminated
MERCURY AT DANGEROUS LEVELS IN INDIA'S WATER BODIES
Plastic Pollution on the rise
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Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

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Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

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How pitches are laid, how they age, and why it's both art and science

Ever wondered why some tracks play true and others — like the recent Lord's strip — don't? Here is an explainer on the preparation of pitches and the factors that govern their behaviour

Vasudevan Mukunth

In the first week of June, a men's Test between England and New Zealand lasted just 166 overs, prompting unpleasant comments about the variable bounce of the Lord's surface. While no curator intentionally sets up bad wickets, what does go wrong when a pitch goes wrong?

What is a pitch made of?

A cricket pitch is clay, water, and grass. The clay supplies the hardness, the grass provides the strength, and the water determines its pace.

Clay is a type of heavy soil composed mainly of aluminosilicate minerals. Clay particles are very small and flat, allowing them to slide past each other when they're wet or harden and bond when they're dry.

Curators generally choose between two main types of clay: black and red. Black soil mainly has smectite and montmorillonite minerals. It is common in Australia and parts of India. It is stickier and harder when dry, creating the wide cracks seen on day-5 pitches. But because the particles bind so tightly, the pitches can offer pace and bounce.

Red soil, more common in Chennai and some Caribbean islands, consists of kaolinite and illite. It doesn't crack as dramatically but tends to break into smaller, finer particles more quickly, leading to rough surfaces that help the ball grip for spin and facilitate reverse swing sooner in a match.

For all the control curators exercise, a cricket pitch is a living, changing thing – an aspect most pronounced during a Test

How is a pitch laid?

Curators begin by selecting and laying the soil to contain clay. In the U.K., pitch loams are typically 25-35% clay; this together with higher silt levels encourage the seaming conditions famous in England. In Australia, the soil can exceed 60% clay, creating the bounce of Perth and Brisbane. According to former pitch curator P.R. Viswanathan, the clay content in India is usually 50-60%.

Curators also use heavy rollers, weighing a few hundred kilograms to over a tonne, to apply a large amount of pressure when the soil has just the right amount of moisture, forcing the clay particles into their most packed arrangement.

Since a heavily rolled pitch will be smooth, a ball striking the surface will suffer less friction and retain more kinetic energy. This is part of why Curtly Ambrose was able to pick up seven wickets for just one run in a spell against Australia in Perth in 1993.

Finally, below the 100-150 mm of the wicketing layer lies the base. It usually consists of a layer of silt or sandy loam, then a layer of gravel or crushed stone. The base can't be too soft or it will absorb the ball's energy. If it is too hard, the pitch can heave or become uneven. Consistent bounce also requires the clay layer to be bonded to the base underneath.

In many modern multipurpose stadiums, curators develop pitches in large steel trays away from the stadium and drop them in before a season begins. Since they lack a natural soil profile, they sometimes develop more predictable bounce.

What effect does water have?

To wet a pitch, according to the U.K. Grounds Management Association, curators use a process called deep saturation several days before a match to ensure moisture penetrates about 75-100 mm down, allowing the clay to settle and pack. This could take a day or more. Then the water is allowed to evaporate, so that capillary action pulls moisture up from deeper and dries the pitch uniformly.

The bounce comes from the soil's elasticity. A hard, bone-dry surface like Perth is highly elastic because it returns nearly all the energy to the ball, allowing it to climb. But on a damp pitch, moisture reduces friction and the ball skids through – but the water also softens the clay, reducing its elasticity and forcing the ball to stay low.

Recently, the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) pioneered a technique called soil-steaming to remove pests attacking the grass's roots at Lord's. A contractor injected superheated steam into the soil square, killing harmful microbes and weeds to several centimetres without any chemical residue. Once the roots were healthy again, the thinking went, the clay would bind better to render a more bouncy surface.

However, *ESPNCricinfo* reported the steaming efforts appeared "to have had minimal positive effect on the evidence of the first two days" of the England-New Zealand contest.

What role does grass play?

Aside from sinking roots into the pitch that reinforce the soil, blades of grass above the surface – which curators typically cut to be 3-5 mm high, according to pitch consultant Andy Atkinson – provide friction against the ball. In particular, the blades interact with the ball's seam: if the pitch is lush, the seam can 'grip' the blades and deviate sideways.

But if curators have shaved the grass off, the seam would catch almost nothing. However, as the game wears on and one side of the ball becomes scuffed, the pitch will also increase friction on the leather and allow the ball to reverse-swing.

Grass also helps control the pitch's wetness as its roots draw water from deeper soil layers and release it through the leaves. This can help ensure the pitch isn't like a moist cake with a hard crust.

Grass helps control the pitch's wetness as its roots draw water from deeper soil layers and release it through the leaves. This can help ensure the pitch isn't like a moist cake with a hard crust

The Sabina Park Test match in 1998 was abandoned after only 10.1 overs because, from the same spot on the pitch, balls bowled by the West Indies quicks either reared sharply at the England batters or skidded fast and low. The inquiries that followed concluded that the pitch hadn't fully settled before the match and may have been like the aforementioned cake.

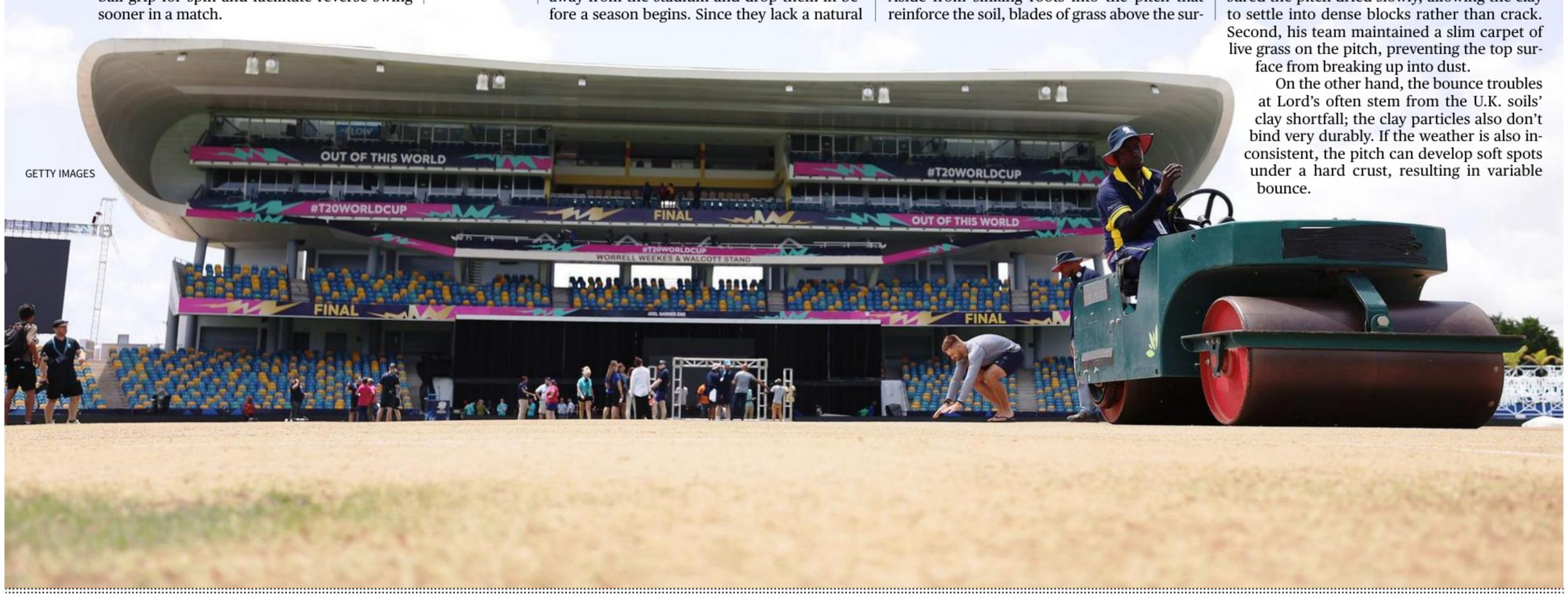
Why does a pitch deteriorate?

For all the control curators exercise, a cricket pitch is a living, changing thing – an aspect most pronounced during a Test. After curators lay a pitch for the opening day, they anticipate the sun, the humidity, and the winds will shape its devolution over the next 450 overs.

The manner of decay depends on the clay, according to the 2023 book *Cricket Pitches: The Science Behind the Art of Pitch-Making*. On a black-soil pitch, the clay will pull apart into islands: if a ball hits the edge of one of these cracks, it can behave dangerously. A red-soil pitch deteriorates more uniformly: the top layer turns to powder, scuffing the ball's leather and allowing spinners to find more purchase even sans large cracks.

A good example of 'controlled deterioration' was the Australia v. South Africa women's Test at Perth in 2024: curator Isaac McDonald ensured the pitch dried slowly, allowing the clay to settle into dense blocks rather than crack. Second, his team maintained a slim carpet of live grass on the pitch, preventing the top surface from breaking up into dust.

On the other hand, the bounce troubles at Lord's often stem from the U.K. soils' clay shortfall; the clay particles also don't bind very durably. If the weather is also inconsistent, the pitch can develop soft spots under a hard crust, resulting in variable bounce.



GETTY IMAGES

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	24	13,500	19
2	Carlos Alcaraz	23	9,960	18
3	Alexander Zverev	29	7,190	20
4	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	4,390	24
5	Ben Shelton	23	4,070	23
6	Alex de Minaur	27	4,060	24
7	Daniil Medvedev	30	3,810	24
8	Novak Djokovic	39	3,760	16
9	Taylor Fritz	28	3,635	23
10	Flavio Cobolli	24	3,540	27
11	Alexander Bublik	28	3,020	26
12	Jiri Lehecka	24	2,640	21
13	Andrey Rublev	28	2,460	23
14	Casper Ruud	27	2,425	22
15	Lorenzo Musetti	24	2,315	23

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 277 ▲ 1 spot

Manas Dhamne
Rank 378 ▼ 5 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	28	9,090	19
2	Elena Rybakina	26	8,143	22
3	Iga Swiatek	25	6,733	19
4	Jessica Pegula	32	6,056	20
5	Mirra Andreeva	19	5,751	21
6	Amanda Anisimova	24	5,631	16
7	Coco Gauff	22	4,879	19
8	Elina Svitolina	31	4,315	15
9	Victoria Mboko	19	3,670	22
10	Karolina Muchova	29	3,388	18
11	Belinda Bencic	29	3,385	19
12	Marta Kostyuk	23	3,157	19
13	Linda Noskova	21	3,054	22
14	Jasmine Paolini	30	2,617	20
15	Naomi Osaka	28	2,571	20

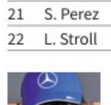
Top Indians ▶

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 332 ▼ 1 spot

Vaishnavi Adkar
Rank 396 ▼ 22 spots

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	A.K. Antonelli	Mercedes	156	5
2	L. Hamilton	Ferrari	115	1
3	G. Russell	Mercedes	106	1
4	C. Leclerc	Ferrari	75	0
5	L. Norris	McLaren	73	0
6	O. Piastri	McLaren	68	0
7	M. Verstappen	Red Bull	55	0
8	P. Gasly	Alpine	41	0
9	I. Hadjar	Red Bull	34	0
10	L. Lawson	RB	28	0
11	O. Bearman	Haas	18	0
12	F. Colapinto	Alpine	16	0
13	A. Lindblad	RB	13	0
14	C. Sainz	Williams	6	0
15	A. Albon	Williams	5	0
16	E. Ocon	Haas	3	0
17	G. Bortoleto	Audi	2	0
18	F. Alonso	Aston Martin	1	0
19	N. Hulkenberg	Audi	0	0
20	V. Bottas	Cadillac	0	0
21	S. Perez	Cadillac	0	0
22	L. Stroll	Aston Martin	0	0


A.K. Antonelli

L. Hamilton

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	Mercedes	262	6
2	Ferrari	190	1
3	McLaren	141	0
4	Red Bull	89	0
5	Alpine	57	0
6	RB	41	0
7	Haas	21	0
8	Williams	11	0
9	Audi	2	0
10	Aston Martin	1	0
11	Cadillac	0	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Shi Yu Qi	1,05,305	12
2	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	92,565	16
3	Anders Antonsen	91,155	17
4	Jonatan Christie	88,431	17
5	Christo Popov	84,682	20
6	Chou Tien Chen	80,280	27
7	Alex Lanier	74,525	17
8	Li Shi Feng	73,083	16
9	Victor Lai	72,915	21
10	Alwi Farhan	70,369	20
11	Kodai Naraoka	68,020	21
12	Lin Chun-Yi	66,594	18
13	Loh Kean Yew	65,700	18
14	Lakshya Sen	65,213	22
15	Weng Hong Yang	59,341	17

Top Indians ▶

Lakshya Sen
Rank 14

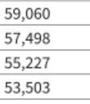
Ayush Shetty
Rank 21

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	1,17,787	16
2	Wang Zhi Yi	1,06,839	16
3	Akane Yamaguchi	1,00,426	18
4	Chen Yu Fei	87,651	16
5	Han Yue	82,288	14
6	Putri Kusuma Wardani	73,473	18
7	Ratchanok Intanon	72,246	20
8	Pornpawee Chochuwong	67,977	16
9	Tomoka Miyazaki	63,646	22
10	Pusarla V. Sindhu	61,401	14
11	Nozomi Okuhara	59,060	20
12	Chiu Pin-Chian	57,498	25
13	Michelle Li	55,227	20
14	Mia Blichfeldt	53,503	15
15	Sim Yu Jin	53,354	10

Top Indians ▶

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 10


Unnati Hooda
Rank 24

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Harry Brook	869	898
2	Travis Head	853	884
3	Joe Root	851	932
4	Steve Smith	831	947
5	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
6	Kane Williamson	780	919
7	Temba Bavuma	775	806
8	Shubman Gill	743	807
9	Yashasvi Jaiswal	733	858
10	Dinesh Chandimal	717	755

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	870	908
2	Mitchell Starc	838	852
3	Pat Cummins	832	914
4	Marco Jansen	825	825
5	Scott Boland	820	820
6	Noman Ali	817	853
7	Matt Henry	812	853
8	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
9	Josh Hazlewood	775	864
10	Gus Atkinson	754	766

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Daryl Mitchell	815	840
2	Virat Kohli	783	908
3	Ibrahim Zadran	741	756
4	Rohit Sharma	739	879
5	Shubman Gill	735	841
6	Babar Azam	689	894
7	Shai Hope	683	782
8	Harry Tector	679	730
9	K.L. Rahul	669	676
10	Charith Asalanka	659	705

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	696	775
2	Abrar Ahmed	675	675
3	Jofra Archer	649	682
4	Keshav Maharaj	645	737
5	Maheesh Theekshana	641	680
6	Adil Rashid	629	671
7	Kuldeep Yadav	618	757
8	Mehidy Hasan	604	722
8	Shaheen Afridi	604	691
10	Mitchell Santner	599	656

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	875	931
2	Ishan Kishan	871	871
3	Sahibzada Farhan	848	848
4	Phil Salt	792	881
5	Pathum Nissanka	751	796
6	Tilak Varma	742	845
7	Suryakumar Yadav	722	912
8	Jos Buttler	716	794
9	Dewald Brevis	702	738
10	Brian Bennett	701	708

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	753	828
2	Varun Chakaravarthy	740	818
3	Abrar Ahmed	736	757
4	Adil Rashid	721	747
5	Jasprit Bumrah	702	783
6	Adam Zampa	682	746
7	Corbin Bosch	669	745
8	Wanindu Hasaranga	668	809
9	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	663	757
10	Nathan Ellis	661	678

‘Pink Line elevated stretch by Aug., full corridor in March 2027’

The project has witnessed repeated delays, while missing multiple deadlines, drawing criticism from commuters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Friday held his first high-level review meeting with senior officials of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) after recently taking charge of the portfolio, outlining fresh timelines for key stretches of Namma Metro’s Phase 2.

Addressing a press conference here, the Minister said that the elevated section of the Pink Line from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere is expected to be operational by August 15, 2026. The underground stretch from Tavarekere to Nagawara is slated for completion by March 2027.

The Pink Line, a 21.3-km corridor connecting Kalena Agrahara in the south to Nagawara in the north, is a crucial component of the metro expansion. Of the total length, 13.8 km runs underground, linking key central areas such as Dairy Circle, M.G. Road, Shivajinagar and Tannery Road, while 7.5 km is elevated.

Repeated delays

The project has witnessed repeated delays, while missing multiple deadlines, drawing criticism from commuters. The corridor is expected to significantly ease north-south connectivity once operational.

Providing updates on the Blue Line, Mr. Gowda said that the trial runs on the K.R. Pura-Marathahalli-HSR Layout section are likely to begin by October 2026. The Hebbal-Kempegowda International Airport stretch is targeted for commissioning by June 2027, while the K.R. Pura-Hebbal segment is expected to be completed by December 2027.

Further, he said that the Namma Metro network is expected to expand to nearly 175 km by March 2028 with the commissioning of upcoming corridors. Mr. Gowda said approval from the Government of India for Phase-3 Double-Decker Corridor Project is still awaited.

Mr. Gowda noted that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has already taken up the matter with the Union government, and expressed confidence that the required clearances could be received within the next few weeks. “Once approvals are received, the BMRCL will immediately initiate the tendering process for the Phase-3 works,” he said.

Highlighting the public’s keen interest in the metro development, Mr. Gowda said Bengaluru residents closely follow every aspect of the project and expect timely completion of works.

Faster execution

Stressing the need for faster execution, the Minister pointed out that Bengaluru’s growing traffic congestion has made metro expansion an essential requirement rather than a luxury.

“Delays directly affect the lives of lakhs of commuters. During the metro construction, traffic congestion increases significantly. I have instructed officials to acquire only the land that is absolutely necessary and ensure that excessive debris is not dumped around work sites,” he said.

The Minister also raised concerns over rainwater accumulation around several construction sites, stating that inadequate site management was creating additional inconvenience for residents and motorists.

Fares

Responding to questions regarding the Bengaluru metro fares, Mr. Gowda said that the issue would be taken up in future meetings. “I have my own views on the fare structure. However, fare revision was not discussed during today’s meeting. We will focus on fares and other larger issues in upcoming discussions,” he said.

Mr. Gowda further said he had raised concerns regarding the performance of certain contractors and conveyed his personal observations to the BMRCL officials regarding delays in project execution.

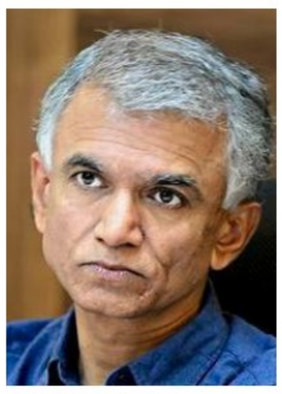
In a media release issued later, the Minister was quoted as saying: . “Does it take three years to construct a single metro pillar? Should people have to endure traffic congestion and air pollution until then? Your (BMRCL) contractors are also dumping garbage and construction debris at the metro work sites, further aggravating the problem. This is not acceptable.”

Deadlines for Namma Metro projects

Pink line
- Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere **August 2026**
- Up to Nagawara **March 2027**

Blue Line
- K.R. Pura to Marathahalli and up to HSR layout: **trial run by Oct. 2026, Silk Board station pending**
- Hebbal to Airport **June 2027**
- K.R. Pura to Hebbal **Dec. 2027**

Source: BMRCL



The Namma Metro network is expected to expand to nearly 175 km by March 2028 with the commissioning of upcoming corridors

KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA
Minister for Bengaluru Development

Passenger’s leg stuck between metro train and platform

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Panic briefly gripped commuters at a busy metro station on Friday morning after a passenger’s leg got trapped in the gap between a train and the platform while alighting, leading to a temporary disruption of services on the Purple Line.

The incident occurred at the Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Metro Station between 10.20 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. According to officials, the passenger was alighting a crowded metro train when his leg slipped into the gap between the coach and the platform edge.

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) officials described the incident as a rare occurrence, noting that such cases are uncommon. “Preliminary assessments suggest that heavy passenger movement and crowding during peak travel hours may have contributed to the mishap,” a senior official told *The Hindu*.

Officials of the Emergency Trip System was immediately activated after the incident was reported. “The station controller, security personnel and other staff on duty swiftly responded, bringing the train to a halt and initiating rescue procedures. The passenger was safely rescued and administered first aid. He sustained only minor injuries,” the official added.

The incident resulted in a brief interruption of metro operations on the Purple Line. The BMRCL officials said that at least three trips were affected, causing minor delays at several stations along the corridor.

The officials have urged commuters to exercise caution while boarding and alighting from trains. They pointed out that there is always a small gap between the train doors and the platform edge and reminded passengers to pay attention to the repeated onboard announcements that caution riders to “mind the gap”.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Shruthi G., an eyewitness, said that the incident caused panic among passengers. “Everyone was shocked when it happened. The passenger was in severe pain and panic. Fellow commuters and metro staff immediately rushed to help. Fortunately, he was rescued safely,” she said.

Couple, two-year-old daughter killed as BMTC bus hits two-wheeler

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A couple and their two-year-old daughter were killed, while their elder child was seriously injured after a BMTC bus crashed into their two-wheeler near Sulibele in Hoskote taluk of the Bengaluru Rural district on Friday.

A preliminary probe suggested that the BMTC bus was on the wrong lane.

The deceased have been identified as Arun Kumar, 35, his wife Anusha, 32, and their daughter Harna, 2. Their five-year-old daughter, Anushika, sustained injuries and is undergoing treatment. The family hailed from a village in Devanahalli taluk.

According to the police, the accident occurred around 6 p.m. when the family was returning home from Hoskote to Devanahalli on their two-wheeler.

None were wearing helmets, according to the police. A BMTC bus proceeding from Sulibele towards Hoskote allegedly collided with the two-wheeler while reportedly travelling on the wrong lane. The result of the crash threw all four off the motorcycle, leaving them severely injured. They were rushed to hospital, but doctors declared Arun Kumar, Anusha and Harna dead.

Driver refutes

The Sulibele police have registered a case against the bus driver. The officer said they would ascertain the allegation, while the driver had denied it.

‘Work on elevated western cross-field taxiway at KIA making rapid progress’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Work on the Kempegowda International Airport’s western cross-field taxiway, a critical infrastructure project which will improve smoother flow of aircraft movement and improve safety and efficiency at the airport, is on in full swing and will be completed as planned, said officials said.

In this regard, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has issued an Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) Supplement stating to inform about the activities during Phase 2 of the construction of a new elevated western coss-field taxiway.

The AIP has been issued to inform stakeholders like airlines, air navigation service providers and regulatory authorities, and its validity is from July 9 to November 5.

The AAI has issued an Aeronautical Information Publication Supplement stating to inform about the activities during Phase 2 of the construction of a new elevated western coss-field taxiway.

“The purpose of the AIP Supplement is to inform the stakeholders (Airlines, ANSP, Regulator etc.) about the activities during Phase 2 of the construction of the new elevated Western Crossfield Taxiway (TWY-J & TWY-K), extension of TWY-B, TWY-G and its associated infrastructure at the KIA,” the AIP stated.

The western cross-field taxiway is expected to enhance operational efficiency and safety for aircraft taxiing between the two terminals (Terminal 1 and Terminal 2) and two runways (North and South) of the airport. The project will improve airfield circulation and provide better connectivity between the two runways, resulting in shorter taxi times for certain aircraft operations. It will allow for smoother flow of aircraft movement, enhancing safety and efficiency.

This will also have sustainability benefits due to lowered fuel usage, said officials. The western cross-field taxiway is intended to support the taxiing of various aircraft, including wide-body jets such as the A380, B777, and B747-8.

The structures are intended to span the terminal boulevard, metro line (Blue line), cargo roads, and south access roads.

BUSINESS CONNECT — A Business Initiative

Bhima Celebrates 19th Anniversary of Koramangala Showroom with Special Offers

Bhima Jewellery is celebrating the 19th anniversary of its Koramangala showroom in Bengaluru with a three-day festival from June 19-21, 2026. Customers can enjoy up to 60% off on making charges across gold, diamond, and silver jewellery collections, along with a complimentary 24-karat gold bar for every ₹1 lakh diamond purchase. The celebrations also feature a lucky draw offering jewellery worth ₹10,000 to one in every ten customers and an advance booking scheme that allows customers to secure jewellery at the lower of the booked or prevailing rate. The event showcases a wide range of bridal, traditional, contemporary, and lightweight jewellery collections.

HOLI and Gilada Finance Announce Strategic Joint Venture to Launch India’s Wellness Finance Sector

HARLEY of LONDON INDIA (HOLI) and Gilada Finance & Investments Ltd, a BSE-listed and RBI-regulated NBFC, have entered into a strategic joint venture sponsored by the Delamore & Owl Group to develop the HOLNESS Economy™–an integrated ecosystem connecting health, wellness, lifestyle, and innovation. Sanjeev Kumar, Founder of HOLI and CEO of Delamore & Owl Group & Rajgopal Gilada, MD of Gilada Finance & Investments Ltd said the initiative aims to improve healthcare affordability through accessible financing, support SME growth, create employment opportunities, and position India as a global wellness innovation hub. The venture will combine Gilada’s regulated financial platform with HOLI’s wellness-focused vision to build a fintech-enabled ecosystem serving businesses and families. As part of the partnership, Gilada may undergo a phased rebranding to Delamore Gilada Capital Ltd, with expansion plans targeting the GCC, UK, and Singapore markets over the next 24 months.

CRPF Jawans led by DIG, Donate Blood on World Blood Donar Day 2026

On the occasion of World Blood Donor Day 2026, a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp was organized at St. John’s Medical College Hospital on 13 June 2026. The event was inaugurated by Suresh S, with Kaish Prakash as Guest of Honour. Addressing participants, including 20 CRPF jawans, DIG Suresh S highlighted the importance of voluntary blood donation in saving lives and encouraged greater public participation. The camp, conducted under the theme “One Drop of Humanity - Give Blood, Save Life,” was supported by hospital staff, community representatives, and a dedicated blood bank team. By 3:00 PM, more than 60 units of

blood had been collected, reflecting the spirit of service and solidarity demonstrated by the CRPF personnel and other donors. The initiative reinforced the message that blood donation is a selfless act that can make a life-saving difference.

Venus Home Appliances Celebrates the launch of New Bangalore Brand Store: Launches Next-Gen Energy Products and Green Heating Innovations

Venus Home Appliances has announced the opening of a new branch office and flagship brand store in Wilson Garden, Bangalore. The facility, opening as part of the company’s 60th anniversary celebrations, showcases its latest energy-efficient and sustainable water-heating technologies, including heat pump water heaters, tankless water heaters, solar water heaters, and solar power solutions. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Ramkumar, Managing Director of Venus Home Appliances, stated that the launch reflects Venus’s “Consumer Connect” philosophy, focusing on customer priorities such as durability, corrosion resistance, hard water protection, and energy efficiency. Key products on display include the new QUIK Tankless Water Heaters (QU55 and QU75), Heat Pump All-in-One Water Heaters, smart Wi-Fi-enabled models, and solar energy solutions. With over 60 years of experience, Venus is one of India’s leading water heater manufacturers and exporters, serving customers in more than 22 countries through a large dealer and service network.

Man mowed down

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 57-year-old mason was mowed down by a BMTC electric bus in Jnanabharathi on Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as K. Raju, a resident of Ullal. The police have arrested the bus driver identified as Sachin, 25. The incident unfolded around 7.40 p.m. when Raju was returning home from work, the police said.

“Raju was walking near the Manganahalli cross where the BMTC bus took a right turn. The driver didn’t notice Raju and moved recklessly, which led to the incident,” an officer said.

Owner of rehabilitation centre hacked to death by inmates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police suspect that internal fights may have led to the murder

A 62-year-old man who used to run a rehabilitation centre was hacked to death allegedly by inmates of the centre located in West Bengaluru’s Chandra Layout on Friday, the police said.

The victim has been identified as Shivalinga, a resident of West Bengaluru. He had been running the rehabilitation centre for the last eight years, according to the police sources.

An investigator told *The Hindu* that the accused used iron rods to beat up the owner. A fatal blow to his head proved critical. “One more person, who suffered injuries in the melee, is out of danger,” said the officer.

“The incident took place on the first floor, and no one had come to Shivalinga’s rescue. He died on the spot,” the officer said, adding that they suspect that eight persons may have been involved in the murder, among whom four persons who attacked the deceased have been identified. “The eight persons have fled from the scene in the victim’s car. They took the keys after Shivalinga collapsed, and drove away,” the officer said.

The Chandra Layout police have registered a case under Section 102(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which deals with murder.

The police said that they suspect internal matters and fights may have led to the murde. They have retrieved the CCTV footage from the vicinity and have launched a search operation. The weapons used by the accused were seized.

GETTY IMAGES

> There is great talent in the squad. Now the focus is on hard work, building the right culture and winning trophies
>
> XABI ALONSO

ANDONI IRAOLA

ENZO MARESCA

Hot-seat shuffle: Alonso, Iraola, Maresca sign up for big-club roulette

Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester City will have new men in charge next season — managers with interconnected destinies dealing with the pressure of expectations common at top clubs. What do they bring to the job and what challenges do they face?

Reuters
Sports Bureau

Football managers lead uncertain lives. Especially when they have been hired by big clubs. Owners and fans have short memories. A string of middling results is all it takes for speculation about a manager's future to run wild. Before long, the rumours become reality.

Arne Slot guided Liverpool to a Premier League title in 2024-25 and was sacked a season later because the Reds finished fifth. Every manager who accepts a position at a top club is aware of its perils, but the challenge, the opportunity and the reward the job offers are irresistible.

Recruitment season

The latest to sign up for this life in England are Xabi Alonso, Andoni Iraola and Enzo Maresca. The three men are linked, having been part of a hot-seat shuffle.

Maresca exited Chelsea, which hired Alonso, who many thought was a favourite to take the reins at Liverpool, which recruited Iraola, who was also interviewed by Chelsea.

Chelsea has tasked Alonso with reviving its fortunes after a turbulent, trophy-less season. The 44-year-old Spaniard is the fifth permanent appointment under Chelsea's big-spending BlueCo ownership, following Graham Potter, Mauricio Pochettino, Maresca and Liam Rosenior.

Coached by Pep Guardiola, Carlo Ancelotti, Jose Mourinho and Rafa Benitez, Alonso rose to prominence at Bayer Leverkusen, where he guided the club to a historic unbeaten Bundesliga title in the 2023-24 campaign, along with the German Cup and a run to the Europa League final.

> You don't need a lot of things to get attracted by Liverpool. Liverpool is Liverpool
>
> ANDONI IRAOLA

Alonso, who had cut his coaching teeth at Real Madrid (youth academy) and Real Sociedad (reserve team), demonstrated his prowess as an adroit tactician in Germany. Having to combat a Bayern Munich side with better players and bigger resources, he fashioned inventive solutions. His ideas were modern and progressive, bolstered by a rigorous structure.

That success earned him a return to Real Madrid as head coach, but his spell was reportedly affected by internal tensions, including clashes with several senior players such as Federico Valverde and Vinicius Jr. He was sacked in January, less than eight months after taking charge.

Understandably, Alonso had reservations about the Chelsea job. The club has spent 1.8 billion pounds on signings since BlueCo took charge in 2022, but the money has yielded neither stability nor progress.

He reportedly needed reassurance from the club's top brass that he would have real influence at Stamford Bridge after his disillusioning Madrid experience.

According to *The Athletic*, Alonso signalled his desire to build a team of "mentality monsters", capable of establishing themselves at the top of the Premier League.

"There is great talent in the squad," he said. "Now the focus is on hard work, building the right culture and winning trophies."

It will be interesting to witness Alonso's tactical approach at Chelsea. During his career, he has employed both a back three (3-4-3) and a back four (4-3-3, 4-2-3-1, 4-4-2). A common coaching intention, irrespective of formation, is his emphasis on central progression and penetration.

Alonso demands a lot from his players; indeed, his 'failure' at Madrid, experts felt, was a consequence of the attacking superstars refusing to work without the ball. Will he be able to convince the Chelsea squad to run all game in the Premier League, which has become even more physical and intense?

One advantage Alonso has is a light fixture schedule, with Chelsea missing out on Europe. This means more time on the training ground to seed his ideas. He will also have a fresher squad than England's other big clubs – a considerable advantage in a packed post-World Cup season.

Ticking the right boxes

While many expected Alonso to head to Merseyside to replace Slot, given the former midfielder's playing history at Liverpool, the Reds chose a different Basque-born coach. Iraola, who oversaw a significant upturn in Bournemouth's fortunes, getting the side to compete with bigger, richer clubs despite routinely losing its best players, ticked the right boxes for Liverpool.

His success at implementing a high-pressing and progressive style of football, centred around attacking swiftly, was a decisive factor in his appointment. That approach, Liverpool's bosses thought, would work well at Liverpool, renowned for its high-octane brand of football under Jurgen Klopp, a style that the great Mohamed Salah urged the club to revive.

Indeed, the more sedate football under Slot in 2025-26 was a major reason for the club losing faith in him. That is unlikely to be a problem with Iraola. The 43-year-old's influences include former Barcelona manager Ernesto Valverde and the messianic Marcelo Bielsa, but his approach is uniquely his own: a disruptive, hard-running, direct style.

"We like to attack fast, use the width of the pitch, overlaps and a lot of crosses, high press," Iraola once said about his teams. "Most of the games we win are the more open ones, where there are more chances, where we can exploit one-on-one situations on the outside and find wider spaces." Those words could well be used to describe a Klopp side!

Iraola faces a challenging task of resuscitating Liverpool, while also having to contend with the absence of Salah, who had been the club's main source of goals for the better part of the past decade. In Alexander Isak, Florian Wirtz and Hugo Ekitike, Iraola has access to some of the most expensive, elite attacking talent in football, but he will have to maximise them.

The high-profile job also represents a significant step up for the young manager, who excelled in underdog situations at Rayo Vallecano and Bournemouth. How will he handle the expectations at one of Europe's biggest clubs?

In some aspects, Maresca has the trickiest assignment of the three. There is the thankless task of filling Guardiola's shoes, but the uncertainty ahead of the season is an even bigger wrinkle.

Manchester City and Chelsea have been locked in negotiations over a compensation package following Maresca's dramatic departure from Chelsea in January after talking about "the worst 48 hours" of his tenure. Chelsea's awareness of City's interest in Maresca back in October, when he was still contracted at Stamford Bridge, has made it a complicated situation.

City also awaits the verdict on the 115 charges of alleged breaches of the Premier League's financial rules. Some reports in the English media have claimed that the verdict will be out in the summer; if that transpires, Maresca will have to deal with a situation he has little control over.

The Guardiola question

The Italian will have certain comforts to fall back on. He was a part of City's backroom staff under Guardiola when the club won the treble in 2023, so he knows the set-up. His style is heavily inspired by Guardiola's fundamental tenets, built on the ideas of positional play. But Guardiola changed to a less controlled, more direct style, even using a shot-stopper in Gianluigi Donnarumma, who isn't comfortable with the ball at his feet. Which path will Maresca pick?

Guardiola has backed his former assistant, but as those who succeeded Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger found out, replacing a generational manager is a daunting prospect.

GAME THEORY

Williamson: among the best of his era and the greatest of all time

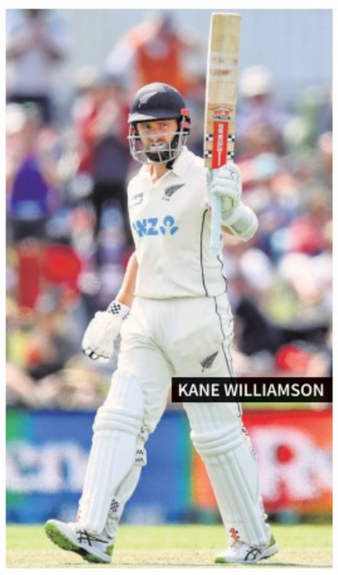
With Kane Williamson leaving the Test stage on his own terms, we take a look at just how special he was in a couple of aspects of batting. The first table ranks batters with the best averages and average overperformance (minimum 5,000 runs) during Williamson's career span (Nov. 4, 2010 – Jun. 8, 2026). Average overperformance is the difference between a batter's average and the mean average (30.13) of all batters during that period. The second table ranks batters with the best home average of all time (minimum 3,000 runs)

BEST AVERAGES AND AVERAGE OVERPERFORMANCE DURING WILLIAMSON'S CAREER SPAN

Player	Tests	Inns	NO	Runs	Avg.	Avg. overperformance
Steven Smith	121	216	28	10,663	56.71	26.58
Kane Williamson	110	195	19	9,515	54.06	23.93
Joe Root	164	300	25	13,952	50.73	20.60
Hashim Amla	78	134	10	5,899	47.57	17.44
Alastair Cook	101	183	10	8,108	46.86	16.73
Virat Kohli	123	210	13	9,230	46.85	16.72
Ross Taylor	87	150	23	5,742	45.21	15.08
Angelo Mathews	109	198	26	7,744	45.02	14.89
David Warner	112	205	8	8,786	44.59	14.46
Cheteshwar Pujara	102	174	11	7,119	43.67	13.54
Dinesh Chandimal	90	161	15	6,361	43.56	13.43
Azhar Ali	91	168	10	6,851	43.36	13.23
Mushfiqur Rahim	79	143	13	5,623	43.25	13.12
Usman Khawaja	88	159	14	6,229	42.95	12.82

BEST HOME AVERAGES (ALL TIME)

Player	Tests	Inns	NO	Runs	Ave	100s
Donald Bradman	33	50	6	4,322	98.22	18
Garfield Sobers	44	75	14	4,075	66.80	14
Kane Williamson	55	93	12	5,327	65.76	20
Mohammad Yousuf	32	52	5	3,067	65.25	12
Michael Clarke	53	86	11	4,654	62.05	17
Javed Miandad	60	86	13	4,481	61.38	14
Michael Hussey	45	76	14	3,794	61.19	14
Kumar Sangakkara	75	124	11	6,830	60.44	22
Denis Compton	47	76	10	3,963	60.04	13



KANE WILLIAMSON

STEVEN SMITH

DONALD BRADMAN

GARFIELD SOBERS

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO.COM

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Tuck, flip, turn

Turns are an important part of competitive swimming, with many a race won and lost during the reversal of direction in multiple-lap events.

The turn is a quick compression of action at the end of a pool's length. The competitors have to touch the wall during the change of direction — in competition, judges or pressure pad sensors in each lane ensure that this occurs.

The propulsion provided by the push-off during a turn creates a curious dynamic in short-course races, held in 25m pools.

Over the same distance, a short-course race (and its world record) will be quicker than a long-course race, contested in 50m pools, because there are more turns!

Turns come in a few forms. The open turn is used in butterfly and breaststroke, where swimmers have to touch the wall with both hands simultaneously before turning left or right.

The flip turn, used in freestyle and backstroke, involves a tuck and a forward flip before the push-off.

The backwards flip, used in the individual medley to transition from backstroke to breaststroke, involves a touch and a back flip.

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International Day of Yoga celebrated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kristu Jayanti University celebrated the 12th International Day of Yoga on Friday with a special programme organised by its Centre for Yoga and Wellness and Jayantian Extension Services in collaboration with Sri Sri School of Yoga, The Art of Living. The event was held under the aegis of the Ministry of AYUSH. The programme was attended by Fr. Dr. Augustine George, Vice-Chancellor of Kristu Jayanti University, Vasanti S. Iyer, CEO and Director of Sri Sri School of Yoga, The Art of Living, and yoga instructor Rudresh Kumar.

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BDA aims to enter Guinness book by planting 15 lakh saplings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) aims to enter the Guinness Book of World Records by planting 15 lakh saplings in 12 hours on June 27 to mark Kempe Gowda Jayanti.

The earlier record was held by Indore for planting 12.4 lakh saplings in 24 hours, the BDA sources said.

BDA chairman N.A. Haris, speaking at an editor's roundtable in the city on Friday, said that this programme would create Miyawaki-style urban forests on 244 acres of the BDA land in Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda Layout (NPKL), Dr. K. Shivaram Karanth Layout and Banashankari VI Stage. "The effort to plant 15 lakh saplings is huge, and we need 50,000 volunteers that day who will plant 30 saplings each to achieve the target," he said, appealing for volunteers to join the efforts.

He further said that NGOs and organisations would be partnered with to maintain patches of this forest for three years. "A group needs to adopt at least one acre of forest patch. It will have nearly 7,500 to 8,000 saplings. To maintain these, you need at least a group of 300 people," BDA Commissioner P. Manivannan said.

BDA will plant 12.5 lakh trees, both native and exotic species, and 2.5 lakh shrubs, BDA officials said. Of these, 40% of the trees will be top canopy trees, 40% mid canopy trees and the rest 20% shrubs, as per the Miyawaki technique.

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Shortage of engineers hits civic works across five corporations

Nearly 40% of vacancies in the engineering section are yet to be filled, with a severe shortage of AEs and AEE, say sources

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Eight months after the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) was formed by dissolving the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, the five corporations under the GBA are reeling under a shortage of engineers, which is now affecting civic works.

According to the GBA sources, nearly 40% of vacancies in the engineering section are yet to be filled, with a severe shortage of Assistant Engineers (AEs) and Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs).

In the B-SMILE, the special purpose vehicle responsible for implementing big-ticket projects, the sanctioned strength for AEs is 48, but currently only 11 engineers are handling the work.

Typically, one ward is overseen by three AEs who report to an AEE, who in turn reports to an executive engineer. Every AEE oversees three wards. However, each person is now being assigned multiple roles, adding to the burden on personnel.

A huge pit on the busy traffic stretch on Race course Road in Bengaluru posing threat to commuters, on Friday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

'The vacancies can only be filled after the government conducts recruitment examinations and deputes more staff to the GBA'

In multiple instances, citizens have complained that grievances raised on the Sahaaya portal are not being addressed for long periods, and in some cases, complaints are being closed without any action being taken. According to sources in the East Corporation, the reason is the mounting workload on individual engineers. In addition to field responsibilities, engineers are also required to handle internal departmental work, further increasing their burden.

Pranith B., a resident of Koramangala, said that accessing engineers at their offices has also become difficult because most of them are out conducting inspections for civic works, leaving immediate minor issues unattended.

Further, many inspections are being overlooked, and permissions are being granted readily because there is insufficient staff to carry out field verification.

Work in progress

In Bengaluru, 49% of civic works remain ongoing despite the onset of the monsoon. Many white-topping projects have also slowed down due to the lack of effective monitoring by engineers. For example, the Wind Tunnel Junction underpass was initially scheduled to be completed within 140 days, but after initial delays, the deadline has now been extended to 200 days.

In such a situation, M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the GBA, has directed corporations to deploy more manpower to expedite works. However, there are barely any staff members without additional responsibilities.

A corporation Commissioner, who wished to remain anonymous, said that even they are constrained when it comes to addressing civic issues with limited staff.

"Now, we are bringing in more people on a contractual basis, but we cannot expect the same level of efficiency and timely execution of work from such staff," the Commissioner said.

According to GBA sources, the vacancies can only be filled after the government conducts recruitment examinations and deputes more staff to the authority.

Garbage, potholes top 7.81 lakh complaints on Sahaaya portal

Sahaaya complaints

Corporation	Action to be taken	In progress	Re-open	Resolved	Total
Central	4,576	20	687	1,02,585	1,07,524
East	6,438	4	1,654	1,12,451	1,19,015
North	3,128	74	549	1,69,054	1,72,256
South	4,899	8	712	1,57,482	1,62,389
West	11,315	100	1,390	2,08,743	2,20,161

Source: GBA (From Jan 1, 2023 to June 13, 2026)

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Garbage piling up on streets, pothole-ridden roads and electricity-related issues were among the most common complaints raised by Bengalureans on the Sahaaya portal, with more than 7.81 lakh grievances being registered between January 2023 and June 13, 2026.

Data from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which manages the portal, shows that while a majority of complaints were attended to, issues related to garbage collection, road maintenance and fallen trees or branches continue to generate the highest number of pending and reopened complaints.

In the West Corporation's Zone 1, more than 1.27 lakh complaints were received during the period. Of these, 7,228 complaints are still pending, while 796 complaints were reopened by citizens after they were dissatisfied with the action taken. Garbage-related complaints topped the list at 30,947, followed by road maintenance complaints at 10,682.

Cables lying on a footpath on Lavelle Road pose a threat to pedestrians in Bengaluru on Friday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The North City Corporation has recorded the lowest number of pending complaints

The North City Corporation recorded the lowest number of pending complaints. Of the 1,72,256 complaints received across its two zones, only 3,128 remained unresolved.

Officials told *The Hindu* that the recently introduced phone-in programmes had helped improve grievance redressal, as residents could directly speak to Commissioners and raise issues, which were then reviewed in subsequent sessions.

However, officials said pending complaints continue to accumulate in departments that depend on coordination with other civic agencies. They pointed to waste management issues involving the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) and electricity-related grievances involving Bescom as examples. In the case of road-related complaints, the officials attributed delays to staff shortages and irregular execution of works, which have contributed to unresolved grievances and repeated complaints.

1,775 tonnes of Bengaluru's daily waste remains unprocessed

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

While Bengaluru's daily waste generation is crossing 5,880 tonnes, the city is able to process only about 4,105 tonnes, leaving a shortfall of 1,775 tonnes every day.

To bridge the gap, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the five corporations, and the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) have planned a sweeping overhaul of the waste management system that includes new processing facilities, separate mechanisms for construction and demolition (C&D) waste, bulky waste and animal waste, and a restructuring of garbage collection and transportation.

Of the 1,775 tonnes of waste that the city is unable to process every day, wet waste makes up the largest share at 677 tonnes, followed by dry waste at 545 tonnes. The proposal was recently discussed with Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

Of the 1,775 tonnes of waste that Bengaluru is unable to process every day, wet waste makes up the largest share of 677 tonnes, followed by dry waste at 545 tonnes . SUDHAKARA JAIN

As part of the proposed overhaul, a new model, only for collection and transportation (C&T), comprising 33 contract packages has been envisaged, with an estimated annual expenditure of ₹619 crore, amounting to about ₹5,040 crore over seven years. The model would replace the existing system that relies on hundreds of supply agencies with larger, division-based contract packages.

Patchy collection

Officials told *The Hindu* that on the ground, about 5,020 auto-tippers and nearly 600 compactors have been operating, with each auto serving nearly 750 to 1,000 households. The system was brought in to scale up the coverage but it has become fragmented and difficult to streamline under a unified operational model, an official said, pointing that many vehicles are not going for collection, almost all are without GPS, and many are going to only a few areas and not covering all assigned routes.

All this is leading to patchy collection. Processing level is another crucial point, and the current solid waste management infrastructure shows "stress points", the official said. He added that Bengaluru has a combined waste processing capacity of a little over 4,100 tonnes per day, but utilisation is uneven.

"Of the 16 biomethanation plants meant for decentralised wet waste treatment, only six are currently operational, while six are defunct and the rest are under construction. Similarly, of the planned 26 mini transfer stations, seven are not functional, and of the 30 larger transfer stations which were set up to improve secondary movement of waste, only three are operational at present," the official said.

Fact sheet

Gap between generation and processing 1,775 tonnes per day (TPD)

C&D waste 6,000 TPD generated vs 2,050 TPD capacity

Legacy waste 36.5 lakh tonnes still pending at single site

Total biomethanation plants: 16 — Operational 6; Under construction/ defunct 10

Total planned mini transfer stations: 26 — Not functional /not operational: 7

Apart from operational and collection challenges, the official said that a persistent problem is legacy waste.

"The city carries a heavy legacy burden, with about 36.5 lakh tonnes of accumulated waste at Bellahalli alone, while remediation work is ongoing at multiple old dump sites across the city," the official said.

"Construction and demolition waste remains another major pressure point, with around 6,000 tonnes generated every day against a processing capacity of only about 2,050 tonnes," the official said, adding that gap in C&D waste has also lead to discussions where proposals are outlined to expand treatment facilities significantly under the PPP model.

Dry waste

Even dry waste management is still far from a functioning recycling system, the official lamented, pointing that the city has 124 dry waste collection centres, but together they can handle only about 266 tonnes of waste a day, a fraction of what is generated.

"As a result, most dry waste, especially low-value plastic that cannot be easily recycled, does not stay within any local processing chain. Instead, around 1,100 tonnes of such waste is pushed out daily to waste-to-energy plants and cement factories, where it is ultimately burnt or co-processed rather than recycled back into use," the official added.

Land scam: CID arrests ex-MLA from Belur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Friday arrested more than 15 people, including former JD(S) MLA from Belur, K.S. Lingesh, and two former tahsildars, in a case involving alleged irregularities in the sanctioning of land to bagair hukum cultivators in Belur taluk.

Bagair hukum refers to the cultivation of government land without formal sanction from the administration. The two arrested tahsildars have been identified as Mohan Kumar and Putta Shetty. A source said there are nearly 30 accused, and the State investigation agency has launched a search operation to trace the remaining suspects.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, JUN. 20
RISE 05:55 SET 18:48
RISE 10:58 SET 23:32

SUNDAY, JUN. 21
RISE 05:55 SET 18:48
RISE 11:49 SET 00:00

MONDAY, JUN. 22
RISE 05:55 SET 18:48
RISE 12:38 SET 00:09

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	26	22

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be little warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Before Bengaluru FC, PSU teams defined city's football culture

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

"In the 1980s, as children, we watched intense football practice sessions at Nandan Ground in Austin Town, which were followed by endless discussions about football, planting a strong passion for the game. All those who watched those matches dreamt of playing the game and emerging as heroes," said R.C. Prakash, a former India player from Bengaluru.

Like Mr. Prakash, hundreds of children growing up in the 1970s and thereafter developed the same passion, eventually taking up football seriously. This helped sustain Bengaluru's strong football culture, which was originally introduced by the British.

Mr. Prakash said that apart from the game itself, players who had featured in the Olympics used to practice at several grounds, including Nandan Ground and Bangalore Football Stadium, attracting more youngsters.

A file photo of HAL (HASC) football team, winner of the BDFA Super Division title, in Bangalore.

> A mix of teams such as HAL, ITI, BEML, the Police Department, and MEG fueled Bengaluru's football culture
>
> **A. SARAVANAN**
> Former India player

"There was already substantial admiration for Olympic players, and they went on to start something called the Veterans Coaching Camp, which gave another push," explained Mr. Prakash.

Chikka Chennaiah of the Bangalore District Football Association said that football practice had meanwhile started in many parts of Bengaluru, including Vyalikaval and Malleswaram. While places like Gowthampura , Cox Town, and Austin Town produced many star players, such as Ulaganathan, Bengaluru also produced quality players from different parts of the city. Stalwarts emerged from Basavanagudi, Jeevanahalli, Periyar Nagar, Malleswaram, and many other areas, Mr. Chennaiah said.

V. Ramkumar, who played in the 1980s for Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), explained that football was not seen merely as a passion but also as a gateway to employment, as PSUs actively recruited local talent.

"Teenagers started honing their football skills so that they could get opportunities to represent the State at an early stage. Once selected, they could land jobs in PSUs, as these organisations had started recruiting young players and building teams that could remain competitive for 10 to 15 years," Mr. Ramkumar said.

In the 1970s

Mr. Chennaiah reiterated that the PSU dominance began in the 1970s, and the organisations quickly developed strong scouting systems, helping sustain the city's football culture through the years until the early 2000s.

A. Saravanan, a former India player, explained that a mix of teams such as HAL, ITI, BEML, the Police Department, and MEG fueled Bengaluru's football culture, while rivalries among these institutions further strengthened it.

Among them, the most famous rivalry was between the HAL and ITI, which still gives goosebumps to football enthusiasts, said Mr. Chennaiah. "Their matches used to be intense, and fans would be on the edge of their seats," he said.

Mr. Prakash, who captained the HAL for three years in the late 1990s, said, "There was never a year when either of the teams was weak because the rivalry kept their training standards high and forced the PSUs to constantly search for quality players."

Packed stadiums

R. Thyagaraj, 75, who played for BEL, said stadiums used to be packed, as employees from the respective organisations would arrive in buses and throng the grounds. Teenagers and local football enthusiasts also never missed a game.

In the early 2000s

By the early 2000s, many PSU teams were disbanded, and recruitment gradually stopped. As a result, enthusiasm declined, leading to a sudden drop in the flourishing local talent that had once defined Bengaluru football, said Mr. Thyagaraj.

However, even today, the HAL versus ITI rivalry is remembered as the "Titans' Clash," said Mr. Chennaiah. In 2019, Bengaluru FC organised a veterans' match between HAL and ITI, which drew hundreds of spectators, underscoring the history the two teams hold.

(This is the first of a three-part series on football.)

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A BG-BGE

Crack down on misuse of schemes without affecting genuine people: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during a review meeting on guarantee schemes, at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday. PTI

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday directed officials to plug loopholes in the State government's guarantee schemes while ensuring that no eligible beneficiary is deprived of benefits.

Chairing a review meeting on the implementation of the schemes in Bengaluru, Mr. Shivakumar said the focus should be on identifying ineligible beneficiaries and preventing misuse without disrupting benefits to genuine recipients.

"Not a single eligible beneficiary should suffer. The objective is only to stop misuse and ensure benefits reach those entitled to them," he said.

Karnataka residents

Stressing that Karnataka's welfare schemes should benefit only eligible residents of the State, Mr. Shivakumar expressed concern over payments being made to accounts located outside Karnataka and directed the officials to prevent any such leakage.

During the performance review of the guarantee programmes, the officials said women had undertaken 763 crore free bus journeys under the Shakti scheme till the end of May, with the value of tickets issued amounting to ₹20,047.69 crore. The government is expected to distribute around 10 lakh free bus passes to students from General, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities during 2026-27.

Gruha Jyothi scheme

Under the Gruha Jyothi scheme, 1.65 crore beneficiaries had availed themselves of free electricity benefits till May-end. The Chief Minister directed the officials to collect information on persons from other States who had settled in Karnataka and were availing themselves of the scheme.

He also asserted that beneficiaries of government welfare schemes must have their names on electoral rolls and urged them to ensure their names remain on the voters' list during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision.

AG flags irregularities in Gruha Lakshmi scheme implementation

One of the key findings relates to 19,020 beneficiaries who were found to be sharing bank account numbers; 3.03 lakh payments amounting to ₹60.69 crore were made to such beneficiaries

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The report says that the Women and Child Development Department failed to furnish details of beneficiaries deleted from the scheme. FILE PHOTO

The Accountant General (AG), Karnataka, has flagged several irregularities in the implementation of the State government's flagship Gruha Lakshmi scheme, including payments to beneficiaries sharing the same bank account, repeated changes in bank account details, and disbursals made without bank account information being recorded.

The observations were part of an audit review of data provided by the Directorate of Women and Child Development and analysed by the AG's Data Analytics Wing.

One of the key findings relates to 19,020 beneficiaries who were found to be sharing bank account numbers. According to the audit, 3.03 lakh successful payments amounting to ₹60.69 crore were made to such beneficiaries across different months. Of these, 8,995 payments worth about ₹1.8 crore were made to beneficiaries sharing the same account during the same payment month. The audit noted that such duplicate instances pose a risk of potential irregularities.

The AG also found that more than 10 lakh beneficiary records reflected multiple changes in bank account details. A total of 10,06,308 records showed beneficiaries changing their bank accounts more than once, prompting the audit to seek further clarification from the department.

Another observation related to payments made despite the absence of bank account details. The audit found that 23,262 payments amounting to approximately ₹46.52 crore had been processed without bank account numbers being captured in the system. It asked the department to explain how such transactions were carried out. The audit further pointed to gaps in data sharing by the Centre for e-Governance (EDCS), stating that key records, including the beneficiary database, details of ineligible beneficiaries and online complaints received under the scheme, had not been provided to the AG's Data Analytics Cell despite repeated requests.

The report also noted that the department had failed to furnish details of beneficiaries deleted from the scheme, including beneficiary IDs, dates of deletion and reasons for removal, despite repeated reminders from the audit team.

In a separate observation, the AG's report said action had not been initiated on issues earlier flagged during an audit review of the scheme. The AG's office had formally handed over a list of cases requiring field-level verification to the Women and Child Development Department at a meeting chaired by the department Secretary on January 1, 2026.

According to the audit, the department had agreed to verify the cases and submit a compliance report by January 31, 2026. However, no action had been initiated and the identified cases had not even been forwarded to district authorities for verification.

Two workers feared dead after falling into STP tank

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BWSSB Chairperson N. Manjula at the sewage treatment plant at Belagere in Varthur on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Two persons feared dead after three labourers allegedly fell into a 40-foot-deep sewage treatment plant (STP) of the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) at Belagere in east Bengaluru's Varthur on June 18. One of them was rescued.

The missing persons have been identified as Brijesh and Akhilesh. The rescued person is undergoing treatment at a nearby hospital. According to sources, the incident occurred around 6 p.m.

Efforts are on to trace the missing persons. On June 19, BWSSB sources said that the search for the missings persons has been hampered by the presence of toxic gases inside the drainage tank and the strong flow of water.

Considering the complexity of the operation, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been deployed at the site. On June 19, they were trying to disperse the toxic gases. Once the oxygenation process is completed, NDRF personnel are likely to enter the tank and continue the search for the labourers. BWSSB Chairperson N. Manjula visited the spot. She directed officials to intensify the search operation. "A comprehensive inquiry has been ordered into the incident, and strict action will be taken against those found responsible for any negligence," Ms. Manjula said.

Ms. Manjula has set up a three-member committee comprising Chief Engineer K.N. Rajeev, Additional Chief Engineer K.S. Renukumar, and Deputy Chief Engineer Vinutha D.S., to probe the circumstances under which the incident occurred. The committee is expected to submit its report by June 20, 12 p.m.

Saidulu Adavath, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), told *The Hindu* that once the missing persons are found, they will summon the officials concerned to understand the safety measures in place at the site.

CID inspector among three held in ₹20L robbery bid

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An inspector with the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) allegedly colluded with at least two others and robbed ₹20 lakh from men from Kerala in southeast Bengaluru's Madiwala on Thursday, police said.

The Madiwala police have arrested Mahesh Kanakagiri, CID inspector, and his accomplices Kupendra Reddy and Vasanth Kumar.

However, a source in the department told *The Hindu* that there may be involvement of a few others, which is being verified. A special team has been constituted to probe the case.

According to sources, the accused inspector allegedly went to a private hotel along with the other accused and entered the complainants' room. The accused allegedly claimed to be local police personnel, assaulted the victims, and robbed them of the money. "The suspicion is that the inspector was sitting inside the car in uniform. His exact involvement is being investigated," a police officer said. The victims filed a complaint at the Madiwala police station, following which Mohammad Sujeetha, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Southeast Division, formed a special team. The team swiftly arrested the two accused, whereas the inspector was on the run. However, Mahesh was traced and arrested by Friday night.

Mr. Singh said that the police had recovered the entire amount as well as the car used in the crime. Sources said that the vehicle was a government car.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chamarajanagara - 571313

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
No. 08/2026-27/ Dated : 17-06-2026 (Two Cover System)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, **Chamarajanagara** invites tender in co-ordination with e-procurement portal platform, Bangalore. Tender format as per **KW-2** through e-procurement under the Head of Account **CMIDP** for Date of application submission for tender document and submission of filled tender through online Date: **18-06-2026 to 29-06-2026 upto 16.00 hours.** Last date for clarifications/queries on tender **Date: 25-06-2026 upto 16.00 Hours.** date of opening of technical bid of the tender **Date: 01-07-2026 after 17.00 hours.** After the approval of Technical bid the Financial Bid will be opened. Tender Form Fee: As per e-procurement Details as belows.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)	Contractor Eligibility
1.	ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕರಳಕಟ್ಟೆದೊಡ್ಡಿ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಸೋಲಿಗರದೊಡ್ಡಿಗೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (02ನೇ ಕರೆ)	75.00			Class-II & Above

For more details visit website : htpp://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chamarajanagara **(Ph. : 08226-223019)** during office hours.

AE Phone No. : 8073339806
No. : DIPR:CHANAGAR:185:2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRED Division, Chamarajanagara

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Tender Ref.No: UPMSCL/Drugs-262/13 Dated: 18/6/2026
e-TENDER FOR SUPPLY Of DRUGS/VACCINES
Online tenders are invited from licensed manufacturers for supply of drugs/vaccines to UPMSCL. The details of tender, list of items and Tender documents are made available on website https://etender.up.nic.in and www.upmsc.in. The last date/time of online submission of the tender documents is **29/06/2026 up to 15:00 Hrs.**
Managing Director
UPMSCL, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

Government of Kranataka
Office Of Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chitradurga.
phone No: 08194-200329 Email:eerdwsd.chd@gmail.com
No:RDWS&SD/CTA/TS/TENDER/2026-27/319 Date: 18.06.2026
Tender Notification
On behalf of the Honarable Governor of Karnatakaas per the provisions of the Standard Tender Document, tender is invited for the Molakalmur Taluk Water Supply related Works under SDP Grant, Single-Cover System through KPPP portal from eligible Civil Contractors Total 14 Works, Estimate Cost: Rs. 481.60 Lakhs, Last date for Tender Submission: 29.06.2026, Technical bid opening Date: 30.06.2026 and Financial bid opening Date: 01.07.2026 For more information contact Executive Engineer's office during working hours.
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 178/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer
RDWS&S Division, Chitradurga

Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited (Encore ARC)
acting in its capacity as the Trustee of EARC -EOT - 001 -Trust
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Public Notice for e-Auction
e-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ('SARFAESI Act') read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & proviso to Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to IDFC First Bank Ltd. ("IDFC") to secure dues in the loan account since assigned to Encore ARC (Secured Creditor) acting in its capacity as the Trustee of **EARC -EOT 001 Trust,** the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of IDFC First Bank Ltd. ("IDFC") will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 10.07.2026 at 11:00 a.m., for recovery of outstanding dues of **Rs.1,22,63,839.78 /-(Rupees One Crore Twenty Two Lakhs Sixty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Nine Only and Seventy Eight Paisa Only) as on 12.06.2026 together with further interest from 13-06-2026 at contractual rate till recovery of outstanding amount and other costs, charges etc. due to the Encore ARC (Secured creditor), from Borrowers Ms.Prabhavathi N and Mr Venkatesh J** The description of the mortgaged immovable properties, the details of Reserve Price for the Secured Assets, the Earnest Money Deposit & Minimum Increment Amount in Bidding Process are as under:

Item Sr No.	Name of Account	Description of Property	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.)	Minimum Increment Amount in Bidding Process (In Rs.)
1.	Ms.Prabhavathi N and Mr Venkatesh J	All That Piece And Parcel of Residential Apartment/flat No.005, in The Ground Floor, Having 1890 Sq. Ft Super Built Up Area Including Terrace Area At Site No. 602, In The Residential Apartment Building Known As "J.J. Elita" In Porperty Bearing S.L. No. 602, Municipal No. 44/1, 44/2, 44/3 And 44/4 Old Sy. No. 44 Then Old Survey No. 44 And Resurvey No. 44/1, 44/2, 44/3, And 44/4, Total Measuring 26,136 Sq. Ft. (24 Guntas), Situated At Nyanappanhalli Division And Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore And, Bounded As: East: Nyanappanahalli Main Road, West: Private Property, North: Private Property, South: Nyanappanahalli-hulimavu Road	79,38,000/- (Rupees Seventy Nine Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Only)	7,93,800/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Eight Hundred Only)	50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)

Date of Inspection of Secured Assets	26/06/2026 between 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Last Date of Submission of online Bid	Before 3.00 PM on 09/07/2026
Date & Time of e-Auction	10/07/2026 at 11.00 AM to 1:00 PM with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each as per Terms & Conditions mentioned below.
Auction Website:	https://bankeauctions.com

In case the e-Auction date is declared public holiday then the date will be automatically extended to the very next working day.
Since Encore ARC is acting in its capacity as Trustee of EARC-EOT 001 -Trust only, any reference of its name in this Public Notice should be construed accordingly.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Encore ARC's website i.e. https://www.encorearc.com and https://bankeauctions.com
Interested bidders may contact Authorised officer of Encore ARC Mr B.M. Nagaraju, on Mobile no. 83840 74164 and Mr. K.Nagendran Mobile No. 91762 91717 for any further information / query.
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Place: Chennai
B M Nagaraju
Authorised Officer
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The Secretary, Coconut Development Board

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TENDER NOTICE NO. ACE (P&C): TN - 05: 2026-27
[A] PROCUREMENT: E-3083:- (1) Purchase of 11 kV and 22 kV AB Switch for year 2025-26 and 2026-27 as per latest technical specification on Firm price basis.
[B] CIVIL: ACE (P&C)/ CONTRACTS/ CIVIL- 633, 634, 635, 636, 638, 639:- (1) Construction of Control Room Building Extension with Electrification, colour work in existing control room building and ancillary civil work at various substation of AM Division Bhuj under Anjar Circle, **(2)** Construction work of New Control Room Building, 2 Nos. of TR Bay, 2 Nos. of Line Bay, Road, Yard cable trench, Area grading & misc. civil work on pile at existing 66 kV Tithgam Sub-station in Phase-I under Palanpur Circle, **(3)** Construction of Control Room Building Panel Room on First Floor, Foundations, Cable Trench, Compound Wall (Retaining Wall), RCC Road, Box Culvert & Misc. civil works at 66 kV Mahuva-II S/s, Ta. Mahuva & Dist. Bhavnagar under Amreli Circle, **(4)** Construction of 132/66/33 kV Control Room Building, 2 Nos.132/33kV TR bay Foundations, Cable Trench, Comp. wall, RCC Road, etc. at existing 132 kV Narol S/s under Nadiad circle, **(5)** Construction of Control Room Building, Foundations, T4 Quarter, pre cast Cable Trench, precast Compound Wall, RCC Road & misc. civil works etc. at 66 kV Tamachan S/s. Ta. Jamnagar, Dist. Jamnagar under Jamnagar Circle, **(6)** Construction of 66 kV Control room building, Security cabin, Cable trench, Road, & ancillary civil work at 66 kV Khakhariya S/s under Godhra Transmission Division under Jambuva Circle.
[C] LINE: ACE (P&C)/ CONTRACTS/ E-455, 462, 463, 472/ UPRATING/ TL/ 66kV/ S&E:- (1) Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of conversion of **(i)** 66 kV Hirapur-Kanbha line **(ii)** 66 kV Juval Rupavati-Kerala line-1 **(iii)** 66 kV Juval Rupavati–Kerala line-2 (iv) 66 kV Salejada-Ingoli line (v) 66 kV Navagam-Jetalpur line **(vi)** 66 kV Karamsad-Vallabh-Vidyanagar line-1 **(vii)** 66 kV Karamsad-Vallabh-Vidyanagar line-2 **(viii)** 66 kV Singlav-Borsad line **(ix)** 66 kV Karamsad-Singlav line **(x)** 66 kV Kheda-Samadara line **(xi)** 66 kV Sabarmati-Godarej line **(xii)** 66 kV Godrej-Tragad line **(xiii)** 66 kV Khanpur-Bahiyal line with ACSR DOG conductor into equivalent HTLS Conductor (Equivalent weight of ACSR DOG conductor with Higher Ampacity) of Nadiad Circle), **(2)** Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of conversion of **(i)** 66 kV Dudhai-Navagam line **(ii)** 66 kV Kukma (220 kV) - Madhapar line **(iii)** 66 kV Naliya-Bhachunda line **(iv)** 66 kV Dhaneti-Dagara line **(v)** 66 kV Dagara-Kanaiyabe line **(vi)** 66 kV Mokha-Mathada line (vii) 66 kV Mathada-Khedoi line **(viii)** 66 kV Bhachau-Shikra line **(ix)** 66 kV Anjar-FTZ line **(x)** 66 kV Shivlakha-Rapar line **(xi)** 66 kV Rapar-Vajepar line **(xii)** 66 kV Nanikhakhar-Dahisara line **(xiii)** 66 kV Mokha-Mokha- 2 line with ACSR DOG Conductor into equivalent HTLS Conductor (Equivalent weight of DOG Conductor with Higher Ampacity) of Anjar Circle, **(3)** Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning for Conversion of **(i)** 66 kV Koylana-Vadala line **(ii)** 66 kV Sondrada-Shergadh line **(iii)** 66 kV Shergadh-Ajab line **(iv)** 66 kV Chanaka-Dharigundali line **(v)** 66 kV Visavadar-Vekariya line **(vi)** 66 kV Mevasa-Rangpar line **(vii)** 66 kV Motipaneli-Valasan line **(viii)** 66 kV Motipaneli-Jamjodhpur line **(ix)** 66 kV Patanvav-Motimarad line **(x)** 66 kV Bhayavadar-Chitravad line **(xi)** 66 kV Kotdabavisi-Jamjodhpur line **(xii)** 66 kV Supedi-Dhoraji line with ACSR DOG Conductor into equivalent HTLS Conductor (Equivalent weight of DOG Conductor with Higher Ampacity) of Junagadh Circle, **(4)** Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of LILO to 400 kV Mevasa from 66 kV S/C Pragapar–Rapar line on D/C panther tower with AL-59 Conductor (Eq. Wt. to ACSR Panther Conductor) having Overhead line length 21.32Rkm under Anjar Circle. (Only OH Portion).
[D] SUBSTATION: ACE (P&C)/ CONTRACTS/ E-469:- (1) Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 66/11 kV GIS equipment's, materials on turnkey basis including Procurement of land and all civil works at 66 kV Gothan-2 GIS.
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COVER

Rise of the peripheral home market

Better infrastructure and rental demand are reshaping residential growth in Bengaluru and Mumbai Metropolitan Region

Bhavesh Kothari

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The supply dynamics of India's housing market are changing, with affordable lower- to mid-segment housing slowly shrinking in major cities. According to Anarock's Q1 2026 Residential Market Viewpoints report, only 10% of new launches in the top seven Indian cities were below ₹40 lakh, whereas the lower mid-segment category made up just 12%. In central urban districts, affordability pressures are mounting, and first-time buyers are moving to peripheral corridors.

Bengaluru and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) are no different, with an ever-growing price trend across the established residential markets slowly but surely pushing demand further away. In Q1 2026, Bengaluru saw a 24% year-on-year increase in average housing prices, while MMR registered a 20% increase, making comparatively affordable, infrastructure-linked peripheral micro-markets attractive to first-time buyers more than ever before.

Altering demand

The emergence of peripheral housing corridors in Bengaluru and MMR is intimately linked to the restructuring of metropolitan geography through infrastructure. Steady progress in projects such as the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR), Metro Phase 2 and 3 expansions, and the airport connectivity corridor in Bengaluru are reducing the functional distance between the outer micro-markets and established commercial zones. No longer are areas such as Sarjapur Road, Whitefield extensions, Hennur, Kanakapura Road, and the Hebbal-Yelahanka-Devanahalli belt seen as isolated suburban stretches; they are now part of the city's growing residential network that is becoming more integrated. This transition is also being reinforced by employment decentralisation, notably through continued expansion of Global Capability Centres (GCCs), tech parks, logistics hubs, and aerospace-linked development in North Bengaluru.

The same trend is playing out in the MMR, where Metro Lines 4 and 5, the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), and the Navi Mumbai International Airport are improving connectivity between core Mumbai and suburban growth nodes, such as Thane, Panvel, Kharghar, and Mira-Bhayandar. The decline in commute friction and the rise in transport visibility are driving the visible redistribution of residential demand towards peripheral markets and corridors where infrastructure investment is laying the foundation for long-term urban integration.

Changing priorities

For first-time buyers, the attraction of peripheral corridors is connected to a wider change in the way residential value is being measured. But the market is more end-user driven now. Buyers are more concerned about long-term liveability, commute efficiency, and sustainable ownership costs.

More importantly, affordability is not the sole driver of residential decisions anymore. Rental resilience, proximity to employment clusters, improving social infrastructure, and the emergence of mixed-use residential ecosystems are becoming pivotal to first-time investment decision-makers, indicating a more mature and utility-driven phase of housing demand.

> ***Steady progress in projects like the Peripheral Ring Road , Satellite Town Ring Road, Metro Phase 2 and 3 expansions, and the airport connectivity corridor in Bengaluru are reducing the functional distance***

In Bengaluru and MMR, younger salaried professionals are choosing to move beyond legacy residential clusters in pursuit of larger living formats, improved infrastructure visibility, and stronger long-term value alignment. In Bengaluru, established residential anchors such as Whitefield, Sarjapur Road, and Hebbal are taking the demand graph towards adjoining micro-markets, including Gunjur, Budigere Cross, Hoskote and Devanahalli, where buyers can still get more desirable space-value equations within expanding urban ecosystems. A similar trend is also visible across MMR, with suburban corridors like Thane, Panvel, Kharghar, and Mira-Bhayandar attracting first-time buyers looking for ownership options within connected metropolitan regions, but not necessarily in proximity to south or central Mumbai.

The primary feature that distinguishes this cycle from previous cycles of peripheral or suburban growth is the nature and stability of its market's demand.

Speculative appreciation expectation is not the only reason for residential growth in Bengaluru and MMR; end-user absorption and recurring rental demand are also contributing to it.

The residential market analysis for Q1 2026 by PropTiger mentioned that the housing supply was largely in line with sales absorption across major cities, which reflects a more "demand-anchored" market cycle rather than unbridled inventory expansion. The change is particularly significant for peripheral corridors where the long-term market stability has historically depended on whether infrastructure growth ultimately results in sustained habitation and occupancy.

As global uncertainty, inflationary pressures, and rising construction costs are impacting housing affordability, the gap between core-city pricing and peripheral market accessibility may widen further. In that environment, infrastructure-connected growth corridors are likely to gain significance as practical ownership markets for first-time buyers seeking long-term value within major metropolitan regions.

The continued strengthening of rental demand, infrastructure integration, and end-user absorption across Bengaluru and MMR suggests that peripheral housing demand is now a part of a broader restructuring of urban residential growth rather than just cyclical spillover.

The writer is founder & CEO of Property First Realty.

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Survey finds low awareness of SIR

It records that 91.2% of respondents had Aadhaar cards, but most were unaware that they could not be used as a standalone document

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

More than 61% of people surveyed had not heard about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, while 34% of respondents possessed only Aadhaar and none of the 11 prescribed documents required under the process, according to a three-day awareness campaign in Bengaluru that has raised concerns over voter awareness gaps and the possible exclusion of eligible citizens if the SIR is implemented without proper support systems.

The 'My Vote, My Right' campaign on Friday concluded its three-day 'SIR Janajagruti Jaatha', an awareness rally, which covered several parts of the city with a large number of migrants, shops, and street vendors, such as Jayanagar, Malleshwaram, Tilaknagar, Virat Nagar, and Madiwala market.

The findings of the survey point to low awareness of SIR, heavy reliance on Aadhaar without other supporting documents, and a limited understanding of how to access the 2002 voter list. FILE PHOTO

Organisers conducted a 'Voter Survey on SIR' involving 138 respondents across these areas. The findings showed that 61.3% of people had not heard about SIR at all.

During field interactions, organisers said several respondents alleged that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were not properly mapping voters and, in some cases, were demanding bribes. Many who were aware of the SIR were, however, unaware that ration cards are not among the 11 accepted documents, and that Aadhaar alone is insufficient as proof for verification under notices issued in the process.

Some respondents said they did not have voter ID cards and were unsure whether they needed to apply for one or if they would be automatically included in the revision. Others said they believed that SIR was meant to identify foreign citizens.

The survey also recorded that 91.2% of respondents had Aadhaar cards, but most were unaware that they cannot be used as a standalone document under SIR requirements. Among those aware of SIR, 61.8% said they did not know whether they had been mapped.

Around 65% of respondents said they did not know how to locate their names in the 2002 electoral roll. Only 18.2% said they could do so, mostly using the Election Commission website, EPIC numbers, or with assistance through social media platforms.

The organisers said the findings point to three major concerns – low awareness of SIR, heavy reliance on Aadhaar without other supporting documents among a significant section of voters, and a limited understanding of how to access the 2002 voter list.

The group has requested the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka to hold a public meeting on SIR with the State government and civil society organisations, provide clear assurances that no eligible voter will be excluded, and make the software source code used in the process public before implementation.

It has also urged the Chief Minister to direct local administrations to assist voters in obtaining the required documents and to formally communicate concerns to the Chief Electoral Officer based on experiences in other States.

'DPI's next challenge is delivering public value'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) ecosystem expands beyond identity, payments, and data exchange, policymakers, researchers, and industry leaders are increasingly focusing on how these systems translate into measurable outcomes in sectors such as healthcare, finance, education, and governance.

This shift formed the central theme of a workshop titled 'Scaling DPI: From Identity to Actionable Data' hosted by the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B) on Friday. Co-chaired by S. Rajagopalan, a professor at IIIT-B and Ganesh Mani, adjunct faculty, Carnegie Mellon University, the workshop explored how DPI is evolving from building foundational digital systems to creating broader impact on social life and economic value.

In the workshop there was a consensus the next challenge lies in ensuring that these systems deliver meaningful outcomes.

Kannada writers raise objection against SIR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A group of Kannada writers and authors have written an open letter to the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka and the State government against conducting Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Karnataka.

The list of signatories include writers L.N. Mukund Raj, Banu Mushtaq, Rajendra Chenni and activist-actor Prakash Raj, among others.

The letter read, "Already, due to the SIR, eligible voters ranging from 20 lakh to three crores have been excluded from the voter list across States. We are worried that this is an agenda to create a second-class population without citizenship rights in large numbers and not an effort at identifying infiltrators. The State government and the Chief Electoral Officer should not allow such injustice to happen in the land of Sharanas, Sufi saints and poet-laureate Kuvempu."

'We are worried that this is an agenda to create a second-class population'

The writers have placed various demands to the Chief Election Commissioner, Karnataka, through this letter. They include restricting the use of Logical Discrepancy software in Karnataka that was used in West Bengal during the SIR process. Once the draft list is prepared, village assemblies should be convened, public scrutiny should be conducted, and only after this, the list should be finalised, they have said.

Furthermore, they have demanded maintaining transparency through the use of a machine-readable format for the voter list. A minimum of six months should be given for filing an appeal/objection and providing the necessary documents.

Meanwhile, they have requested the State government to focus on the improvement of master roll of voters as the GBA elections are approaching fast and people are in fear of losing their voting rights.

They have also requested that as per the Election Commission's manual, before finalising the voter list, village councils and ward councils should be convened to accept the amendments, publicly review them, and finalise them with the necessary amendments.

"These village/ward meetings should be conducted by applying the social verification criteria formulated by the commission. This should ensure that the State Election Commission's list is more accurate and valid. In short, we insist that the government should take responsibility to ensure that no eligible voter in the State is left out," the letter read.

They have also extended their support to Prathirodha Samavesha that has been organised on June 20 at Freedom Park in Bengaluru against the SIR.

High Court faults OMCs for departing from agreement to procure ethanol from DEP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) cannot arbitrarily dilute assurances given to Dedicated Ethanol Plants (DEPs) for procuring a certain quantity of ethanol on preferential allocation basis after inducing them to invest hundreds of crores of rupees to set up the plant under the Union government's biofuel policy.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made this observation while allowing a petition filed by VINP Distilleries and Sugars Pvt. Ltd., a dedicated ethanol producer situated in Konanakeri village at Shiggaon taluk of Haveri district, Karnataka.

The company had challenged the sharp reduction in ethanol allocation for the Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025-26 despite a long-term offtake agreement (LTOA) executed with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

Source of dispute

The dispute arose after the OMCs floated a tender in September 2025 for procurement of 1,050 crore litres of ethanol for ESY 2025-26. The petitioner company claimed that despite bidding to supply 9.26 crore litres, it was allocated only 3.92 crore litres. The company argued that the allocation ignored a term of LTOA, which envisaged preferential allocation of additional quantities beyond the assured annual offtake quantity.

Examining the Centre's Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme and 20% ethanol roadmap, the court said the Centre encouraged private investment through policies, interest subvention and long-term procurement assurances boosting capacity.

Pointing out that the DEPs were established "exclusively to supply ethanol to OMCs" and such plants were "contractually barred from entering into similar supply arrangements with third parties", the court said that the petitioner-company had invested substantial capital and established a 300 KLPD ethanol plant based on the assurances contained in the agreement with the OMCs signed way back in 2021.

The court also noted that admittedly the OMCs exercise "overwhelming monopoly over procurement of ethanol from DEPs".

Analysing the issue as to whether OMCs could, through a later tender condition, deny preferential allocation assured in the agreement with the petitioner-company and treat them on par with non-dedicated producers, the court said that when State instrumentalities exercise monopoly power, fairness and non-arbitrariness become constitutional obligations. They cannot induce investments through assurances and later defeat those expectations without compelling justification rooted in public interest, it said.

"DEPs, which have hitherto supplied ethanol exclusively to the OMCs and which are contractually prohibited from either manufacturing anything else or supplying ethanol to any third party, cannot now be relegated to the short end of the stick, thereby visiting them with grave and manifest prejudice," the court observed while directing the OMCs to consider the petitioner-company's plea for enhancement of procurement before procuring the next batch of ethanol under the tender.

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D.K. Shivakumar

Lobbying for ministerial berths to regain momentum

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the elections to Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council seats completed in Karnataka, lobbying for ministerial berths is expected to gain traction next week.

While 13 Ministers have been sworn in along with Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, 20 more berths are to be filled. The lobbying reached frenzied heights ahead of the swearing in, with literally every Congress legislator camping in Delhi.

Party sources said that with the Chief Minister expected to go to Delhi for discussion on Cabinet expansion after June 22, the activity will again gain pace. Sources said that the expansion is expected to be completed before June 30 to enable new Ministers to understand their portfolio before facing the legislature during the Monsoon session expected in July.

Sources also said that about four berths of the 20 could be kept vacant to accommodate more legislators at a later date if dissidence activity picks up after the expansion by those who have missed the opportunities. Over 50 legislators – both seniors and juniors – are vying for the Cabinet berths, sources said.

BJP State leaders summoned to Delhi over cross-voting

High command is unhappy with the development; the BJP has formed a fact-finding committee, led by C.T. Ravi, to identify cross voters; State unit president Vijayendra pegs them at four to five

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP national president Nitin Nabin has summoned the party's State unit president B.Y. Vijayendra, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok, and in-charge of party affairs in the State Radha Mohan Das Agarwal to Delhi on June 23 over cross-voting in the just-concluded Legislative Council elections in Karnataka.

The party high command has expressed its unhappiness with the development, and this may lead to a revamp of the State leadership, multiple sources in the party said.

The State unit on Friday formed a fact-finding committee under the leadership of C.T. Ravi, MLC, to identify cross voters, since these polls are a secret ballot. N. Mahesh and Mahesh Tenginakayi are members of the committee. Sources in the party said the high command will also take independent reports from other leaders.

In a significant departure from the party's stand on Thursday, Mr. Vijayendra on Friday pegged the number of cross voters from the party at "four to five". Mr. Ashok had said it was three on Thursday. This implies that some of the BJP MLAs allocated to the JD(S) candidate also cross-voted.

However, sources said it was extremely difficult to identify who were cross voters, as it was a secret ballot, and it was unlikely there would be action against individual MLAs. Meanwhile, sources said

BJP national president Nitin Nabin with Karnataka BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra, during a recent visit to Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Sources say that it is extremely difficult to identify who were cross voters, as it was a secret ballot

that if the second preference votes were counted, they could detect whether MLAs allocated to JD(S) did vote for them or cross-voted. However, BJP candidate Lingaraj Patil won in the elimination round and second preference votes were not counted.

Meanwhile, Chandru Lamani, Shirahatti BJP MLA, one of those allocated to vote for the JD(S) candidate, claimed that he and Krishna Nayaka, another MLA, had "honestly" voted for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate. "A section of the media unfairly speculated that we may have cross-voted. This has embarrassed us in our constituencies," he said.

'Creating division'

Mr. Vijayendra said the Congress was trying to speculate on the names of cross voters from the BJP to create divisions within the party. "There is no question of sparing those who betrayed the party and cross-voted. They cannot hide forever. The fact-finding committee will uncover them and subsequent to that, the party will take stringent action," he said.

BJP candidate Lingaraj Patil, who was allocated 30 MLA votes, got only 27, clearly indicating three cross voters from the party. However, the BJP had allocated four votes to the JD(S) candidate, including one from Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, expelled MLA, who had announced support to the BJP.

But the candidate polled only 14 votes, as against 18 JD(S) MLAs. While JD(S) concedes that four of their MLAs cross-voted and they did not get BJP votes, the BJP on Thursday maintained that their votes were indeed transferred, implying eight from JD(S) cross-voted. However, Mr. Vijayendra has now pegged it at "four to five".

BJP 'factionalism'

Meanwhile, the BJP is more worried about the three MLAs – of the 30 allocated for party candidate Lingaraj Patil – who cross-voted. He did not get the adequate 28 votes and won only in the elimination round.

Sources said while R. Raghu (Kautilya) was the candidate from one faction, Mr. Patil from Hubballi was from the opposite faction. The BJP fielded V. Nagaraj from Hubballi in the Rajya Sabha elections to fill a seat vacated by Iranna B. Kadadi from Belagavi. This prompted party leaders from the district to seek a MLC seat for the district.

However, the MLC seat also went to Hubballi. The dominance of this faction in both Rajya Sabha and MLC election candidate selection did not go down well with many, which could have played out in the elections, sources said.

JD(S) likely to raise issue of cross-voting with BJP

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

After an embarrassing defeat in the Legislative Council polls, in which at least four of its legislators cross-voted, the JD(S) is likely to raise the matter with its National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ally BJP. The regional party continued to insist that the election outcome would not affect the alliance.

With a total of 11 cross votes that went in favour of Congress from the NDA stables, the JD(S) believes that four of its legislators cross-voted. Besides, four votes allocated from the BJP to its candidate also went to Congress. Three more remain a mystery.

"Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has spoken to the BJP central leaders about the poll debacle and embarrassing cross votes already. He will give a detailed report on possibilities that led to cross voting from both parties and also the last minute issue with coordination between the parties," JD(S) sources said.

It is learnt that there was lack of coordination between the two parties over the allocation of votes, and they did not come together for a preparatory meeting before the elections too. Incidentally, the JD(S) herded its flock to a resort near Devanahalli where training was given to the legislators. The BJP trained its legislators at a hotel in Bengaluru.

It is learnt that there was lack of coordination between the two parties over the allocation of votes. FILE PHOTO

"The allocation of votes to JD(S) also became dynamic. Though initially the BJP had promised to transfer six votes to JD(S), the fears over cross-voting from BJP forced them to reduce it to four. We believe even these four did not come to our candidate," sources said. "Despite the poll outcome, the alliance will remain solid and even become stronger because the ruling Congress has hurt both NDA partners," another party source said.

Ironically, though JD(S) lost at least four of its own in voting, 17 out of 18 legislators took part in the training on the eve of the election on Wednesday. The same 17 legislators were present for a meeting with Mr. Kumaraswamy a day after the election on Friday. "Except G.T. Deve Gowda, all others were present at Devanahalli, including those who cross-voted," a source said.

Though a number of legislators on Friday urged Mr. Kumaraswamy to investigate cross-voting and take action, the Union Minister was not inclined to do so. Sources said that the party had a "rough idea" about those who have cross-voted and possible reasons behind it.

It is learnt that Mr. Kumaraswamy told the legislators that his brand of politics is based on mutual trust. "He told legislators that if anyone was interested to leave the party, they were welcome to do so. He told them that there was a mutual relationship, and that he would not come in the way if someone looked for greener pastures."

Meanwhile, JD(S) Legislative Party leader C.B. Suresh Babu told presspersons that they had sought disciplinary action against those legislators who have cross-voted, and that they had left the decision to Mr. Kumaraswamy. He said that the Congress, which has allegedly indulged in horse trading, would itself reveal the names one day.

Fielding a candidate in Council polls helped test the loyalty of JD(S) MLAs: HDK

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

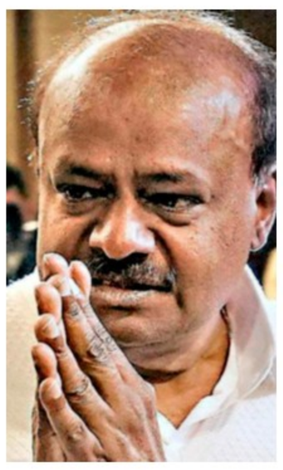
Making it clear that he was neither shocked nor surprised by the cross-voting by Janata Dal (Secular) MLAs in the recent elections to the State Legislative Council, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy said the loyalty of party MLAs had been tested by fielding a candidate.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Kumaraswamy said the party had fielded a candidate not with the expectation of winning, but to keep its flock of MLAs together while also testing their loyalty. "Four JD(S) MLAs have resorted to cross-voting. I have complete information about them," he said.

Why the betrayal?

Without identifying the legislators who had allegedly betrayed the party, Mr. Kumaraswamy said the reasons behind their actions ranged from frustration over the lack of development works in their constituencies to their own future political calculations. He said he was aware of the meetings, discussions and activities of the MLAs who had cross-voted. The election, however, had taught him not to place excessive trust in anyone, he remarked.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said the Legislative Council polls would not significantly alter the political landscape and that the real battle lay in the Assembly elections scheduled for 2028.



> Four JD(S) MLAs have resorted to cross-voting. I have complete information about them
>
> **H.D. KUMARASWAMY**
> Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel

Strengthening JD(S)

Expressing confidence in the commitment of honest party workers, he said the JD(S) would focus on strengthening its organisation ahead of the next Assembly elections and provide opportunities to youngsters and members of Gen Z.

When the issue of veteran G.T. Deve Gowda, JD(S) leader and Chamundeshwari MLA, was brought up, Mr. Kumaraswamy said he did not wish to discuss him. "That chapter is over," he said, adding that Mr. G.T. Deve Gowda had kept "not just one leg, but both legs out of the party".

Asked about Mr. G.T. Deve Gowda's recent meeting with JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda, Mr. Kumaraswamy said his stand on the Chamundeshwari MLA was clear and indicated that he would not alter the decision he had taken in the interest of the party.

'Tenure as Union Minister temporary'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Responding to a question on his return to Karnataka politics, Mr. Kumaraswamy said his tenure as a Union Minister was only "temporary", while Karnataka remained his "permanent" political arena. "I do not need to make a fresh entry into Karnataka politics," he said.

Mr. Kumaraswamy also reiterated that he would continue his fight against the proposed Bidadi township project and said all relevant documents pertaining to the issue would be released during the next session of the State Legislature.

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture
(Mahadevapura / K R Pura Zone), Vengaiahan Lake
ECO Park, K R Pura, Bengaluru -560036

No.: SADH(MDP/KRP)TENDER/01/2026-27 Date: 19.06.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Short Term) (Two Cover System)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Mahadevapura / KRPura), B.E.C.C, (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to implement in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person / Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for maintenance of Parks. **(Standard tender document: KW-3).**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 22 and 28 in Mahadevapura Constituency. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (In Rupees): 34,65,800/-, EMD Amount (In Rupees): 69,300/-.**
2	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 43, 41 and 42 in Mahadevapura Constituency. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (In Rupees): 34,80,500/-, EMD Amount (In Rupees): 69,600/-.**
3	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 38, 47 and 50 in Mahadevapura Constituency. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (In Rupees): 39,00,300/-, EMD Amount (In Rupees): 78,000/-.**
4	Maintenance of borewells in Mahadevapura Zone Parks. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (In Rupees): 30,00,000/-, EMD Amount (In Rupees): 30,000/-.**
5	Water supply through tanker to Parks, Medians / Circles and Boulevard in Mahadevapura Zone Parks. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (In Rupees): 30,00,000/-, EMD Amount (In Rupees): 60,000/-.**
6	Maintenance of toilets at Mahadevapura Zone Parks. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (In Rupees): 10,00,000/-, EMD Amount (In Rupees): 12,500/-.**
7	Providing security services to parks pertaining to Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (In Rupees): 50,00,000/-, EMD Amount (In Rupees): 1,00,000/-.**
8	Civil repair and maintenance to Mahadevapura Zone Parks. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (In Rupees): 40,00,000/-, EMD Amount (In Rupees): 80,000/-.**
9	New digging of borewells and motor and panel board installation in Mahadevapura Zone Parks. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (In Rupees): 50,00,000/-, EMD Amount (In Rupees): 50,000/-.**
10	Maintenance of Medians / Circles and Boulevard in Mahadevapura Zone. **Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (In Rupees): 14,24,500/-, EMD Amount (In Rupees): 14,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Date of Notification: **19.06.2026. (2)** Tender can be downloaded from: **22.06.2026. (3)** Last date for queries: **25.06.2026** at **4:30 p.m. (4)** Tender closing date: **30.06.2026** at **4:30 p.m. (5)** Technical bid opening date: **01.07.2026** at **4:30 p.m. (6)** Financially bid opening date: **After approval of Technical bid**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, (Mahadevapura / KR Pura Zone), BECC

MP POORV KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.
BLOCK NO.7, SHAKTI BHAWAN, RAMPUR, JABALPUR (M.P.)
Tel No: 0761 2702473, Fax No.0761-2660048
CIN: U40109MP2002SGC015120, e-mail: cepurez@yahoo.in

No. CGM(S&P)/EZ/GM-11/111/624 Jabalpur, dtd:- 15.06.2026

TENDER NOTICE

Online tender is invited for supply of following items from manufacturers only as per tender specifications. The Bids will be received online on the portal **https://mptenders.gov.in** up to date & time as per key dates. The tender will be opened in the office of undersigned as mentioned in tender time schedule (key dates) in presence of bidders duly authorized representative who may like to be present at the time of opening of tender:-

Sr. No.	T.S. No. (For e-Tendering) DISCOM/EZ/PUR	NAME OF ITEMS	APPROX. VALUE (Rs. in Lakhs)	TENDER FEE (in Rs)	Due date & times of Opening of Tender(*)
1	TS-1707 (E-Tender No. 2026_PKVVC_515786_1)	DPC & Super Enameled Aluminium Winding Wire	114.96	5900	08.07.2026

*For updated/extended due dates for opening of tender (EMD in Cover -1 & Techno-commercial bid in Cover-2) please refer to the online key dates.

SAVE ENERGY FOR BETTER TOMORROW | 'बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के निराकरण के लिए 1912 डायल करें' **C.G.M (S&P)**

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Nandinagar Bidar

No.EO/KVAFSU/T.No148-Call-2/Manpower/2026-27 Date:18.06.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-Procurement portal only)

1 Works/ Goods / Services details Engaging non-teaching service personnel for Veterinary College, Puttur through outsourcing, 2) Works/ Goods / Services estimated Amount **Rs.70,31,480.00 per annum,** 3) Contractors eligibility details As mentioned e-portal, 4) Works/ Goods / Services Tender Amount Details **Rs.70,31,480.00 per annum,** 5) Cost of Tender form and EMD details As mentioned e-portal, 6) Pre-Bid Meeting at Office of the Estate Officer, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Nandinagar, Bidar 585226 **24.06.2026 at 11.00 AM,** 7) Last Date for submitting tender **06.07.2026 up to 5.00 PM,** 8) Opening of Technical bid **08.07.2026at 11.30 AM,** 9) Verification of uploaded tender documents with originals. Bidder has to personally come with original tender documents for verification and also submit one set of notarized copies of the same to Estate Branch, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Nandinagar, Bidar 585226. Any agency/contractor who fail to submit original documents in person will be rejected. **09.07.2026 at 11.00 AM** (In case the above dateis declared as a holiday, verification will done on next working day), 10) Opening of Financial Bid **13.07.2026 at 11.30 AM,** 11) For more details contact office address, contact No Office of the Estate Officer, KVAFSU, Nandinagar, Bidar 08482-245446, 12) Website details e-procurement portal- https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Bidar/68/KSMC&A/2026-27 **Sd/- Estate Officer KVAFSU, Bidar.**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
E-mail:itstaff_ulb_raichurn@yahoo.com Website:-www.raichurcity.gov.in
Phone No:08532-226768 Fax No:08532-226316

ಸಂ.ರಾಮಪ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಮ.ನಿ/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:19–06–2026.

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ).

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು WWW.KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ WWW.raichurcity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ
1	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ	Animal Birth Control ABC Surgery for Stray Dogs and ARV Vaccination Animal Birth Control Programme In Various Places Raichur City Corporation Limits **Estimate Cost Rs. 27,50,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ SE7607 /CALL-3
2		Operation and Maintenance of Robotic UGD Machine hole Cleaning System (Bandicoot Robot). **Estimate Cost Rs. 50,00,000/-**	DMA/2026-27/ SE7902 /CALL-3

DIP/RCR/131/KSMCA/133/2026-27 ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with actor Rishab Shetty during the Coastal Tourism Development meeting in Bengaluru on Friday.

Cabinet meeting to be held in Coastal Karnataka, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government will convene a Cabinet meeting in coastal Karnataka and expects officials to resolve major regulatory and technical bottlenecks affecting tourism and investment projects in the region before then, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Friday.

Chairing a meeting on coastal tourism development at Vidhana Soudha, Mr. Shivakumar directed officials to prepare, within 15 to 20 days, a comprehensive report on issues arising from Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms and forest clearances, along with possible solutions.

Stressing the need to attract investments without compromising environmental safeguards, he said departments should create a simple and transparent approval mechanism for entrepreneurs.

"Investors should not be made to run from one department to another. We must identify and remove the hurdles they face while ensuring that development is environmentally sustainable," he said.

45 projects approved

Officials informed the meeting that 45 tourism projects with a proposed investment of ₹718.63 crore had been approved under the Karnataka Tourism Policy. These projects are expected to generate around 4,500 jobs.

Mr. Shivakumar said the employment potential of the coastal region should be expanded further and called for greater focus on economic growth through tourism.

Actor and filmmaker Rishab Shetty, who participated in the discussions, called for greater support to coastal folk arts, music and cultural traditions. He said improving facilities for film shooting in the region would benefit the film industries of Karnataka, Kerala and Goa and help promote the State as a preferred filming destination.

Don't approve Mekedatu project, T.N. urges Centre

Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously adopts resolution moved by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Friday unanimously adopted a resolution moved by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, opposing the Karnataka government's proposal to construct a balancing reservoir across the Cauvery at Mekedatu.

"This august House records its strong objection to the unilateral attempt of the Karnataka government to construct a dam across the Cauvery at Mekedatu without respecting the final award given by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) on February 5, 2007, and the Supreme Court judgment on February 16, 2018, without obtaining the concurrence of the concerned basin States, and without securing any approval from the Union government," read the resolution.

One voice: Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay moving a resolution in the Assembly against Karnataka's project. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT KSL

The resolution urged the Union government not to grant any form of approval, including environmental clearances, to the project. The CWDT and the Supreme Court have observed that the Cauvery basin is a deficit basin, and the total available water has already been apportioned among the basin States. Hence, no new project can be undertaken in the Cauvery basin, it said.

"The Cauvery issue is a highly sensitive matter between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka," the resolution said. It urged the Centre to advise Karnataka not to build any new water storage project at Mekedatu or any location in the Cauvery basin without the approval of the other basin States.

"As requested in the Tamil Nadu government's letter on March 4, 2026, this House urges the Union government to constitute a new Tribunal under Section 4 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956," the resolution read.

The resolution also urged the Central Water Commission (CWC) not to examine, process, or grant approval to the Detailed Project Report submitted by Karnataka.

Satheesan banks on 'dream projects' in Budget

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) government's 'dream projects' for transforming Kerala into a cohesive port city and an aviation hub, a Land Reforms 2.0 initiative for harnessing land for development, and a Kerala Knowledge Valley designed to make the State a higher education destination feature high on the revised Budget for the 2026-27 fiscal presented by Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan in the Assembly on Friday.

Mr. Satheesan also enhanced the support price of rubber from ₹200 to ₹250 and the kerosene subsidy for fishers to ₹75.

Other major announcements included a 'Southern Kerala Economic Corridor' linking Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, and Alappuzha districts, a plan for a tribal university and indigenous knowledge zone in Wayanad, and a 'Global Job Watch Tower' for monitoring future employment landscapes.

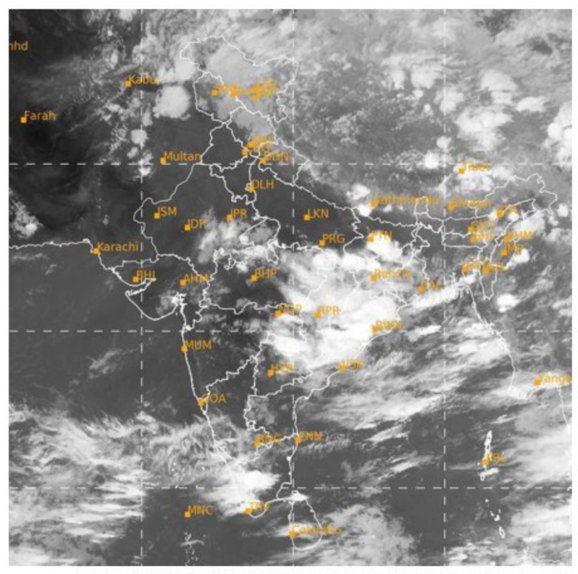
Major allocations in the Budget include ₹600 crore for financing the Indira Guarantee free-travel scheme for women and transgender persons on ordinary buses of the KSRTC, ₹400 crore for Mission Samudra projects, ₹100 crore for a Rare Earth and Critical Minerals Corridor, ₹200 crore for the preliminary activities of the aviation hub proposal, ₹100 crore for the Kerala Knowledge Valley, and ₹50 crore for the Wayanad tribal university project.

Further, the Budget earmarks ₹100 crore for a 'Kerala Health and Life Sciences City'. A comprehensive 'silver economy policy' will be framed for Kerala in line with the government constituting a dedicated department for the welfare of the aged, Mr. Satheesan said.

The Budget envisages revenue receipts of ₹1,69,646.37 crore and revenue expenditure of ₹2,05,001.67 crore, both estimates lower than in the 2026-27 pre-poll Budget presented by the LDF in January this year.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Maharashtra, Vidarbha and Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	50	30.8	25.1	Kurnool	—	37.3	28.8
Ahmedabad	1	40.2	26.8	Lucknow	—	41.3	29.8
Aizawl	—	31.6	23.2	Madurai	—	38.5	25.6
Bengaluru	—	28.4	21.4	Mangaluru	—	31.0	24.4
Bhopal	—	37.3	24.4	Mumbai	—	34.8	29.0
Bhubaneswar	4	35.4	28.6	Mysuru	—	30.2	20.4
Chandigarh	—	37.8	26.0	New Delhi	—	39.1	27.0
Chennai	18	37.7	23.0	Patna	—	40.5	30.6
Coimbatore	1	32.0	23.0	Port Blair	11	31.8	24.7
Dehradun	—	35.9	25.3	Prayagraj	—	43.6	29.0
Gangtok	50	23.5	17.3	Puducherry	—	36.2	28.4
Goa	—	34.0	27.0	Pune	—	35.8	25.3
Guwahati	—	32.3	26.8	Raipur	0.5	37.0	26.6
Hubballi	—	33.0	23.0	Ranchi	42	31.6	21.0
Hyderabad	25	37.6	23.7	Shillong	7	24.9	16.6
Imphal	—	31.1	24.8	Shimla	—	28.0	19.5
Jaipur	0.1	37.0	27.6	Srinagar	—	24.2	15.4
Kochi	0.2	31.2	25.4	Thiruvananthapuram	0.4	33.7	24.8
Kohima	—	24.0	19.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	38.6	27.0
Kolkata	24	26.5	23.7	Vijayawada	—	38.2	26.4
Kozhikode	12	34.0	25.5	Visakhapatnam	9	34.5	28.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.84	.20	.41	74	77	
Bengaluru	.6	.21	.59	49	112	
Chennai	.64	.10	.83	24	—	
Delhi	.23	.53	.48	—	250	
Hyderabad	.19	.16	.31	48	77	
Kolkata	.7	.49	.64	21	31	
Lucknow	.12	.17	.45	144	129	
Mumbai	.1	.51	.21	58	61	
Pune	—	.21	105	23	54	
Visakhapatnam	.8	.64	.19	62	128	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Panchgaon, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 209 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ambernath, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SYED Asif, S/o Syed Abdul Rasheed, R/at No. 19, Albert Street, Richmond Town, Museum Road, Bangalore-560025, have changed my name from Asif Abdul Rasheed Syed to Syed Asif vide affidavit dated 19-06-2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

I, PRABHA.D W/O. Rajaganesh Kasthuri, R/A, door no. 13/1, 6th main road, Malleshpalya, Kaggadasapura, Bengaluru-560075. Karnataka have changed my minor son's name from Gowtham. R to Gowtham Rajaganesh vide affidavit dated 02.06.2026 before notary, XXIX Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City

PERSONAL

LOST & FOUND

I, SACHIN MC, hereby declare that the following certificates have been irretrievably lost: (1) ICSE Statement of Marks, Index No. 6047863, Year of Passing 2015, India International School, Bangalore. (2) CBSE Class 12 Marks Statement, Roll No. 4623268, Year of Passing 2017, S S R Vidya Mandir, Kachamaranahalli, Bangalore.

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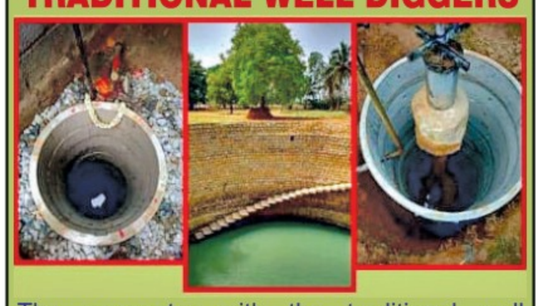
OTHERS

TRADITIONAL WELL DIGGERS



The encounter with the traditional well diggers from Mannu Vaddar Bhovi community was wonderful. Belonging to a community that has been digging wells for over several generations, Pedhanna and his son enkatesh, are part of a team volunteering for **"A million wells for Bengaluru",** an initiative spearheaded by Vishwanth Srikantaiah for Biome Environmental Solutions. In a span of 40 years, Pedhanna has dug up an incredible number of over 5000 wells and his son Venkatesh Pedhanna has dug up over 2000 wells. Pedhanna has the ability to Identify places that have groundwater or otherwise. They are experts in Rain Water Harvesting, Open Well Digging, Recharging Wells & Bore wells and Cleaning Wells. Let's give back to the Earth what we extract from right beneath our feet. Let's catch every drop of rain and keep replenishing its water table! Reduce the dependence on tankers and keep recharging the ground. Avall the services of traditional diggers willing to travel to any parched land.

Contact :
Venkatesh Pedhanna : 9080739674, 9655421005

GIRIJAN COOPERATIVE CORPORATION LIMITED
Opp. VUDA Park East Point Colony, Visakhapatnam-17,
Ph:0891- 2796461,2796164 Email ID:apgirijan1956@gmail.com
RCNo:123/2016.Coffee Dt:19-06-2026
INVITATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF FARMER TRACEABILITY SYSTEM FOR TRIBAL COFFEE GROWERS
Girijan Cooperative Corporation Ltd. (GCC), Visakhapatnam, invites Applications from experienced agencies for implementation of a Farmer Traceability System for Tribal Coffee Growers in Chinthapalli and G.K. Veedhi in Paderu Agency of AlluriSitaram Raju (ASR)District, A.P.
Scope of Work:
* Farmer Registration & Digital DatabaseCreation
* Geo-tagging / GIS Mapping of Coffee Farms
* Mobile- Based Data Collection & Management
*Information with Certification & SustainabilityRequirments
* Generation of Traceability reports & Dashboards
* Farmer Identification & Unique Trace ability Codes
* Traceability for 800 acres as Pilot Project
Interested agencies may submit their Company Probe Credentials and Relevant Experience on or before 25-06-2026, Mail:gccarakucoffee@gmail.com Sd/-
CONTACT DETAILS: 9985098501, Website:htpps://gcc.ap.gov.in VC & Managing Director.

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(A Statutory Body under Ministry of Power, Government of India)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
BBMB invites EoI (Tender ID-2026_BBMB_281233_1) for Selection of Firm for Issuance of NOC for Removal of Sediments of Seer Khad (Himachal Pradesh) Site in Bhakra Dam Reservoir as maintenance activity.
For detailed terms & conditions, please visit CPP portal **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app** and BBMB website **www.bbmb.gov.in**
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GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of Deputy Commissioner, IT Section, Annexure 2 Building, GBA Head Office, NR Square, Bengaluru-560002
No GBA/2026-27/SE0028/CALL-2 Dated:19.06.2026
TENDER SCHEDULE FOR
Providing 92 IT Manpower to Department of Information Technology of Greater Bengaluru Authority Under e-Procurement System.

1.	Tender Inviting Authority : **Deputy Commissioner– IT, GBA**
2.	Tender Accepting Authority : **Special Commissioner – IT, GBA**
3.	Tender Reference : GBA/2026-27/SE0028/CALL-2
4.	Date from which Bid document is ready for download through KPP Portal of Government of Karnataka : **19.06.2026**
5.	Last date for submitting clarification if any : **22/06/2026 @ 1.00 PM**
6.	Pre bid Meeting : **23/06/2026 @ 4.00 PM**
7.	Last date and time for uploading of tender in KPP Portal : **30/06/2026 @ 5.00 PM**
8.	Time and date of opening of tenders: Pre-Qualification & Technical Bid and Technical Evaluation : **01/07/2026 @ 05.10 PM**
9.	Time and date of opening of tenders Commercial Bid (Tentative) : **04/07/2026 @ 11.00 AM**
10.	Pre bid meeting venue : Office of Special Commissioner, Revenue and IT Section , Annexure 1 Building, GBA Head Office, NR Square, Bengaluru-560002
11.	Address for communication : Office of Deputy Commissioner, IT Section, Annexure 2 Building, GBA Head Office, NR Square, Bengaluru-560002. Contact Mobile Number - +91 9986035230. E-Mail Id: dycomm-it@bbmp.gov.in
12.	Place of Opening of Tenders : **Online at KPP portal**
13.	Earnest Money Deposit : **Rs.15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Only)**

Note: Completed tender shall be uploaded through e-Procurement system only in the manner described under this tender Documents on or before the last date & time stipulated.
Sd/- Deputy Commissioner-IT, GBA.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan
IFT No.09/2026.27, Dated: 17.06.2026
Tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in two cover system through KPPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan & Chikkamagalur Districts works as per KW-1, 2 & 4, maximum tender amount is Rs.161.37 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.3.22 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 02-07-2026 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/254/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

Public Works Department,
Chikkaballapur Division, Chikkaballapur.
NO: 06/2026-27 Date: 15.06.2026
Invitation for Tender (I.F.T)
(For Bridge/Road construction Works - As per standard Bid Document KW-4 in two cover system). On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka as per Karnataka Transparency in Public procurement Act 2000 the undersigned invite tenders for works in two cover system through KPP Portal from eligible contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders till Date: **30.06.2026, 06.07.2026** and **15.07.2026 up to 4:00 P.M.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during hours on works days or from websites **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Chikkaballapur.
DIPR/RO:108/KSMCA/CHIKKABALLAPUR/2026-27

Office of the Commissioner
Ballari City Corporation, Ballari.
Gadigi Chennappa Circle(Royal Circle) Ballari-583101
Landline No : 08392-273479 /278168
Website : www.ballaricity.mrc.gov.in
E-mail ID: ka.ballari.cc@gmail.com
No:CCB/ENG/AMRUTH 2.0/2026-27 Date:18.06.2026
INVITATION FOR TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal Only)
Tenders are inivited under 2026-27 Amrut Scheme 2.0 In Ballari City Corporation Limits through KPP Portal, http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in as per KW-2 & 4 standared document registered/renewed/in the PWD Department from the eligible contractors for the following works 1) DMA/2026-27/OW/Work_Indent 59923-Rs.141.46 Lakhs & 2) DMA/2026-27/ OW/Work_Indent 59927-Rs.34.11 Lakhs, last date of submission of tender is on 02.07.2026 at 17.30 hours, pre-bid meeting as on 29.06.2026 at 11.00 AM, opening of technical bid is on 04.07.2026 at 10.30 hours, technically qualified bidders financial bid will be opened on 06.07.2026 at 10.30 hours. Transaction Fee & EMD should be remitted in KPP Portal, http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For further details contact this office during working days.
Sd/- Commissioner,
Ballari City Corporation. Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/261

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief PRAMC
PWD, Bangalore - 560001
No.EIC/PWD/10/PRAMC/2026-27/367 Dated: 19.06.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (through KPPP Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Short Term Tender for **Building work all across the State**. Further details can be obtained from KPP portal **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from **19.06.2026, 05:30 PM Onwards.**
Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
PRAMC, KPWD, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/1258/SA/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ,
ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೇಟಗಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ:0821–2517555, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: dsmysuruhfws@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಜಿಆ&ಸಾಂರೋಆಮೈ/ಸರಬ/ಎಬಿಎಆರ್ಕೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/09/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.06.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ರೋಗಿಗಳ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ **Anti Rabies Immunoglobin 300 IU/ml 5ml injection** ಸರಬರಾಜಿಗಾಗಿ **ದಿ: 16.06.2026**ರಂದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅವಧಿಯು **ದಿ: 31.03.2027 ರವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ.** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಒಟ್ಟು ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೌಲ್ಯ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ **ರೂ: 75ಲಕ್ಷ** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.06.2026** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಾಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **website:https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಳಾಸದ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/–
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ,
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/348/ಏರಡಿ ಸಾಯು/2026–27 ಮೈಸೂರು

University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore
NAAC A' Accredited, Estate Office, Naik Bhavan, GKVK, Bengaluru-560 065.
NO. EO/TN/7/2026-27, DATED: 15.06.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kpp Portal only)
The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KW1 & KW2 from the registered KPWD/PWD/Contractors & Reputed firm for the works Sl. No.1 to 4. The details of the notification, tender document, specifications are available in the website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The cost of tender document is as per e-procurement portal. The EMD has to be paid in the e-procurement portal using e-Procurement payment modes.
The above work is under Two Cover system. The details for two cover system is to be uploaded as per Standard Tender Document.
The Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date and time for uploading is **25-06-2026 upto 4.00 P.M.** The Technical Bid will be opened on **27-06-2026 at 10.30 A.M.** The Financial Bid will be opened on **30-06-2026 at 10.30 A.M.** For more details please contact e-portal help desk at **support@eprochelpdesk.com or 8046010000/ 8068948777**on working days and this office during working hour, **Phone No.080-23332765.**
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/RO1246/AAPL/2026-27 **ESTATE OFFICER**

Defection as merger

The Tenth Schedule is hollowed out by unprincipled politics

There is something deeply troubling about the wave of defections sweeping India's elected representatives, Members of Parliament chief among them. In the latest episode, six Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs are seeking to join the Eknath Shinde faction of the Sena, which emerged after an earlier split in the parent party. This group constitutes exactly two-thirds of the party's Lok Sabha strength, giving them the escape route that their crossover will constitute a merger under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, or the anti-defection law. Under the Tenth Schedule, a member can be disqualified if they voluntarily resign from their party or defy a party whip during a division of votes in the House. In 2003, the law was strengthened by an amendment that removed the earlier "split" provision – which had allowed one-third of a party's members to defect without penalty – and retained only the "merger" exception, under which disqualification does not apply if two-thirds of a party's legislators agree to merge with another party. Engineered splits are now dressed up as mergers, letting groups defect without inviting disqualification. The legal validity of such claims is itself contested, as the Supreme Court of India has, in a past judgment, made clear that a merger cannot be of the legislature party alone, and must involve the parent party as well.

With the Court holding back judgments on several constitutional questions related to this, presiding officers keep waving through such stretched claims – and the practice keeps gathering pace. The Sena splintering follows close on the heels of the TMC rebellion. A rebel group claiming the support of 20 of the TMC's 28 Lok Sabha MPs – led by four-time MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar – has aligned itself with the BJP-led NDA, seeking a merger with another party. In April, AAP MPs in the Rajya Sabha had joined the BJP, reducing AAP's Rajya Sabha strength from 10 to three. Now, three TMC members of the Rajya Sabha, Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Sushmita Dev and Prakash Chik Baraik, have resigned. For all practical purposes, the Tenth Schedule has become redundant and irrelevant, as the Court keeps key decisions pending. The surge in these crossovers, which has the cumulative effect of increasing the strength of the ruling NDA in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, raises questions beyond technicalities. At present, the NDA does not have the two-thirds majority in Parliament needed to pass constitutional amendments. The threshold of two-thirds for constitutional amendments is kept high to ensure a wide political consensus. Bypassing that intent through defections – whatever name they go by – is an affront to representative democracy and the spirit of the Constitution.

Right of way

India needs to build more footpaths to help pedestrians walk freely

As part of the Supreme Court's expansion of Article 21 since the 1970s, it has declared the right to walk on demarcated footpaths a fundamental right. The Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Atul S. Chandurkar reaffirmed the right in a case seeking higher compensation for a five-year-old boy's death after being struck and killed by a tanker lorry in Karnataka. As motorised transport has become more widespread, the Bench noted with regret that walking has become an inconvenience, with motorists often treating pedestrians as a 'nuisance' to be tolerated or cleared. In the absence of a national law governing pedestrian rights, responsibility for pedestrian safety is split across municipal laws, town-planning statutes, and street design guidelines. As such, pedestrians are considered to be safe if they face no immediate physical harm. Most cities also lack continuous unobstructed footpaths; where footpaths do exist, they are often encroached on by parking, vendors, utilities, and construction debris, and competing pressures such as road widening work.

While a right to walk is desirable, the ideas that pavements belong to pedestrians and that they have right of way should be cultural in order to endure. Rights-based legislation in India that has sought to change public culture has had mixed success. The Street Vendors Act 2014 sought to protect vendors from harassment as under Article 19(1)(g). But in most cities, municipalities still conduct "eviction drives" while implementation has lagged because the Act requires surveys, town vending committees, and the demarcation of vending zones – processes that many urban local bodies have delayed or simply abandoned. Weak implementation has allowed informal rent-seeking by officials to persist in some cases. The new judgment is also likely to set up disputes with the 2014 Act. Second, the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003 curtailed public smoking over 20 years, but not by "restitutionary remedies", as the Court has suggested for walking, but with consistent social messaging and small, immediate fines. Finally, despite strict laws and 'Swachh Bharat' mandates, the culture of littering remains because the law focuses on citizens' duty to segregate whereas the state has often overlooked its duty to collect segregated waste. Similarly, if the state does not build footpaths, the citizen's right will be meaningless. The Court's constitutional nudge may thus lead to no real change if it remains a legal tool for compensation after a tragedy. A state using it to 'cleanse' streets of informal commercial activity could also gentrify these public spaces and criminalise the survival of the urban poor. The nudge's principal path to success will be by moving the state's funds towards pedestrian infrastructure.

India's cheapest power is here, the grid must catch up

Amol Phadke

Faculty at the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley, U.S.

Nikit Abhyankar

Faculty at the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley, U.S.

India is leaving tens of gigawatts (GW) of cheap solar and wind power stranded – not because the projects are not ready, but because the grid is not. Upgrading the existing grid with advanced technologies and adding storage at key nodes can unlock 1,000 GW of new clean energy, without acquiring any additional land for transmission.

India is on the verge of a major shift in its electricity system. Solar and wind are now the country's cheapest power sources, and deployment is accelerating, with over 45 GW added in 2025, roughly matching the United States. Paired with some of the world's lowest battery costs, India can now deliver firm clean power at about ₹3.5 per kWh.

Yet, just as technology and prices have aligned, transmission has become the defining constraint. More than 50 GW of clean capacity is already stranded because projects can come online in 12 to 18 months, but transmission takes three to five years to build, slowed by land acquisition, multi-agency approvals, and restrictions on new corridors. Without faster and smarter grid expansion, the benefits of low-cost clean energy will remain out of reach.

India has about 250 GW of renewables today, 100 GW under construction, and will need about 2,000 GW by 2050 to meet rising demand and electrify industry and transport. This implies one of the largest transmission build-outs anywhere in the world. The question is no longer whether India must build more lines – it must –but whether new lines alone will suffice. They will not. India needs both major new transmission and far better use of the network it already has.

Creating clean-energy superhighways

India can unlock the equivalent of nearly 1,000 GW of renewable energy far faster than building new lines by tapping the vast potential of its existing grid. Much of this potential is hidden in plain sight. Four opportunities stand out.

Storage unlocks more from the same wires. First, most renewable plants today use their transmission connections only about 25% of the time. For example, solar energy fills the transmission line during the day, but the same connection sits idle during evening peaks and at night. It is a bit like a highway used only during rush hour – busy for a few hours, empty the rest of the day. Adding batteries at the same locations allows power to be stored and delivered during evening peaks and at night, raising utilisation two to three times without new corridors or land. This directly enables the equivalent of 400 GW of additional clean energy.

Coal corridors can also carry clean power. Second, power lines connected to coal-based power plants offer another major opportunity. Many high-cost or old coal plants, totalling about 100 GW, operate at low output for long periods despite having valuable transmission connections. Locating solar and wind near these stations allows clean power to use this underused capacity whenever coal units are not fully loaded. In many hours it is cheaper to transmit renewable power than to run the coal plant, giving developers access to scarce grid connection and providing coal plant owners new revenue from underutilised assets. This approach can enable the equivalent of 100 GW of additional clean energy.

Using existing substations. A third opportunity sits at existing transmission substations. Many of these locations can take on new grid connections, letting more renewable projects plug straight into the system. Coupling these nodes with batteries can further support peak-demand supply and help manage power flows. Nationally, this could support around 100 GW of additional clean energy.

Modern wires can carry double the power. And fourth, much of India's grid still uses older wires or conductors that sag under heat and restrict flow. Replacing them with high-temperature, low-sag conductors – manufactured domestically – can nearly double transfer capacity on the same towers and rights-of-way. It is like upgrading the engines on a train so it can haul twice as many goods on the same track – no new land, just better technology. This added headroom allows reconductoring to double the clean energy enabled by storage and shared transmission connections – raising the total potential to over 1,000 GW within the current transmission footprint and effectively transforming today's corridors into clean-energy superhighways.

A rapid path

Crucially, these solutions can be deployed within months, not years. They require no new land for transmission, minimal permitting, and far fewer approvals than building new corridors. They can relieve bottlenecks immediately, connect stranded clean power, and let new renewable projects advance while new lines catch up. They also improve grid utilisation and lower the average cost of using the grid.

New renewable energy projects will still require significant land, but locating them near coal plants, renewable energy hubs, or substations – where some land and grid access already exist – offers a practical, lower-conflict pathway as suitable land becomes increasingly difficult to secure.

India must build new transmission, but it must build it smart. A new line built with advanced conductors and designed to work with storage can carry four to five times more clean power for only a modest additional cost. And with India planning a 40% expansion of its grid over the next decade, costing well over $100 billion and ranking among the world's largest buildouts, every kilometre must be future-proofed from the start.

India will need both approaches. Upgrading and optimising the existing grid offers the fastest relief to today's bottlenecks, while smarter, higher-capacity new transmission infrastructure will be essential to support the massive renewable energy expansion required in the coming decades.

The policy shifts that will determine success

India already enjoys structural advantages: a unified national grid and a track record of adding transmission capacity faster than many developed countries. In the U.S. and parts of Europe, the inability to connect low-cost renewable energy to the grid has become the most severe bottleneck in the energy transition. As India accelerates renewable deployment, it can avoid this trap through forward-looking policy.

Three shifts matter most. First, India's national electricity regulator has already created enabling rules that require solar plants to make better use of their grid access by pairing with storage. This approach now needs to be implemented and expanded at the State level, with regulators and utilities actively incorporating it into planning and procurement decisions.

Second, regulation and procurement norms should reward the use of advanced transmission technologies that cost slightly more upfront but deliver greater system-wide benefits over their lifetime by expanding capacity without the need for new corridors.

Third, the coordinated development of large renewable energy zones and optimised transmission corridors is essential to overcome site-selection, planning, and timing challenges, and to enable the efficient movement of vast volumes of low-cost clean energy.

These measures will help India sustain its lead in low-cost clean power at a time when industries such as steel, aluminium, cement, data centres and chemicals are increasingly demanding reliable 24X7 electricity at predictable prices. The path ahead is clear: build all the transmission India can – and get far more out of every line. The grid is no longer background infrastructure. It is India's next engine of growth, and a cornerstone of a low-cost, high-productivity future.

The country's clean-energy future depends on faster, smarter grid expansion and optimisation

Moving from drone purchases to drone partnerships

Adya Madhavan

Researcher at the Takshashila Institution

The Indian government's planned $2 billion drone procurement from domestic manufacturers reinforces its commitment to indigenous manufacturing and will boost the country's growing drone industry. It also signals a shift from buying large, sophisticated platforms such as fighter aircraft to smaller, cheaper and more attritable systems. This shift also means procurement practices will have to address the challenges that come with the territory.

Long-term capital procurement that deals with systems such as tanks and fighter jets, is likely to struggle to keep pace with the rapid demand for upgrades and modifications. The willingness to spend money on these platforms is a good sign, but the question now is whether procurement systems will spend it well.

The economics of drones

Although public conversations about military drones typically focus on large uncrewed combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) such as the MQ-9B Reaper and the Bayraktar TB-2, recent conflicts have exemplified the utility of smaller, cheaper drones.

These typically fall within the 'micro' and 'nano' drone categories, and are built to be cost-effective. Both Iran's use of drones against the United States and Israel, and the use of drones in the Russia-Ukraine war, have followed this principle. Intercepting drones that are being used to strike high-priced hardware, is typically far more expensive than the drones themself. The trend across recent wars has been to produce vast numbers of cheap drones, and deploy them in large numbers. Creative uses and modifications of drones that were originally manufactured for commercial use, have also served as an inexpensive means to achieve military objectives.

Ukraine's use of first-person-view (FPV) drones that have been retrofitted with warheads has made many headlines. Innovation in the defence drone sector is therefore closely linked to innovation in civilian drone technology, creating a need for more iterative and collaborative research and development (R&D) processes. The case of the Chinese drone industry demonstrates the benefits of closer collaboration among industry, academia and the military.

The challenge of drone relevance

The other unique aspect of procuring tactical drones, is that the challenge lies not in acquiring them, but in ensuring that they stay relevant. A state-of-the-art fighter jet or tank bought in 2015 is still relatively new today, and is reasonably competitive. Tactical drones bought today can be obsolete in as little as two to three years, as enemy capabilities and threat environments continue to evolve. Enemy electronic warfare (EW) units can adapt their jammers to the signal of a new drone in as little as six to eight weeks.

When Ukrainian engineers faced this issue, the solution was not to procure new systems with different communication links, but to replace radio links with fibre-optic cables. Processes need to be quick, and allow for rapid modifications and upgrades without the constraint of red tape and bureaucratic timelines.

Indian procurement frameworks have made some good provisions in this direction, but there is still scope for change. For instance, the draft Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) allows the armed forces to procure commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) systems, enabling them to purchase commercial drones wherever they can be utilised. The DAP also has provisions to streamline upgrades. The Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) allows financial buffers for unforeseen repairs and upgrade costs. These are sensible moves.

The key shortcoming of current procurement frameworks is that buyer-seller relationships remain fundamentally transactional. The underlying assumption is that once the government identifies a requirement, it can issue a tender and procure a product that meets it.

However, in a domain where technology evolves rapidly, products require continuous iteration and improvement.

Partnerships, not transactions

A more suitable model for tactical drone procurement may resemble a managed service contract rather than like purchasing hardware.

Much like large organisations that procure computers with maintenance, software updates and replacement support, the armed forces could enter longer-term agreements with drone manufacturers. Such contracts would provide industry with demand predictability while ensuring assured supply, upgrade pathways and surge production capacity during conflicts. They would also create a framework for continuous improvements, including performance enhancements and adaptations to evolving electronic warfare threats. Most importantly, they would foster closer collaboration between the armed forces and industry in a domain where technology changes rapidly and future requirements are constantly evolving.

While Indian policy frameworks continue to take steps in the right direction, perhaps structural changes within these frameworks could create an environment better suited to keeping pace with the evolution of tactical drones. India's domestic drone industry has the technical foundation to support a more sophisticated procurement relationship. The $2 billion commitment is the clearest signal yet that the political will exists. Translating that into the right contractual architecture, one that prioritises sustained capability over one-off delivery, is the logical next step.

India's drone ambitions require smarter contracts and continuous innovation

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Access to messaging app

Banning or blocking applications is not the way forward. Strengthening cybersecurity, plugging loopholes and improving preparedness should be the priority. Is the government's fear that Telegram has evolved into a "new dark web" based on reality or on far-fetched assumptions? Telegram has existed for more than a decade and has not faced similar action in most other countries. Putting the platform itself on trial cannot be a sufficient justification for a ban. Would the government halt all financial transactions simply because they can be misused by criminals?

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

A truce with Iran

U.S. President Donald Trump's words — that he would "go back to shooting and dropping bombs" if he dislikes how things unfold — reveal how personal the agreement with Iran really is. Quiet, sustained diplomacy, not theatrical signings, will determine whether this truce outlasts the season.

A. Myilsami,
Coimbatore

New Chairman

My association with *The Hindu* dates back to 1960. The newspaper helped shape my career in the Railways and strengthened my competitiveness in public life. I have maintained an unbroken bond with this illustrious publication throughout my life, which has now entered its eighth decade. I have followed the developments that have contributed to its growth. The unanimous appointment of Mr. N. Murali, a veteran with vast experience and deep expertise in the publishing industry, as the new Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited, is in keeping with *The Hindu*'s rich tradition and legacy.

N. Sadasivan Pillai,
Kollam, Kerala

As a reader for the past six decades, I plead for improving the quality of news reporting, and to monitor accuracy, fairness and have balance without any political support. I am sure that the 'ABCD' of newspapers — Accuracy, Balance, Credibility, Democracy — in its presentation will be continued under the new Chairman's guidance.

A.J. Rangarajan,
Chennai

Art and culture are inseparable aspects of human life. Since its inception more than a century ago, *The Hindu* has, in keeping with its founding principles, served as a custodian of India's art and culture. Readers look forward to positive changes in its policies and a renewed focus on art and cultural issues.

V.P. Dhananjayan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

GROUND ZERO

Census enumerators at Shashi Garden in the Mayur Vihar area in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The pressures of counting India

Enumerators working on the Census are facing several challenges in the field, including heat, connectivity issues, and safety concerns. Though the exercise is being conducted through a digital system designed for real-time monitoring, field workers say conditions on the ground and supervisory instructions are affecting data collection. **Vijaita Singh** reports on the challenges

Every day for about a month, M. Soumina, a government-school teacher, began her mornings by knocking on the doors of apartments in a multi-storey residential complex in East Delhi's Mayur Vihar.

Although the school where she taught was closed for the summer break, Soumina had her task cut out for her after being appointed an enumerator for the ongoing Census. The exercise relies on about 33 lakh government teachers and other enumerators, who will spend nearly a year surveying an estimated 1.4 billion Indians on housing, amenities, and demographics.

For Soumina, the work meant spending hours going door to door in a brutal Delhi summer, with temperatures consistently hovering between 40°C and 42°C. She surveyed 150 flats spread across 17 apartment blocks and administered a 33-question survey to each household within 26 days.

"I was making those visits daily from May 19," said Soumina. "I had an app on my phone to record the data. Before asking the questions, the households also have to be mapped and geotagged on the app."

Other than her smartphone, a black bag, a QR-enabled identity card, and a white cap with the Census logo to protect her from the heat, Soumina's companion during these visits was her husband, who works in the production unit of a newspaper. She said she felt safer with him around.

Like Soumina, enumerators working on the Census report facing several challenges in the field, including heat, connectivity issues, and safety concerns. Though the exercise is being conducted through a digital system designed for real-time monitoring, field workers said conditions on the ground and supervisory instructions are affecting data collection. Many of them have also flagged these issues on social media.

> When I filled untreated tap water as an option, the supervisor and the charge officers asked me to change the entry to tap water from treated source.
> Census enumerator

A massive exercise

The questions that enumerators asked are part of the Houselisting and Housing Operations (HLO), the first phase of the Population Census 2027. The questionnaire was notified by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India on January 22.

The 2027 Census marks several firsts: it is India's first fully digital Census, the first to collect caste data, and the first to allow residents to self-enumerate. The exercise was originally scheduled for 2021, but was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, India is conducting its population count six years later than the decennial schedule, with governments continuing to rely on 2011 Census data for policy planning and welfare programmes.

The HLO phase involves the collection of data on housing conditions, household composition, basic amenities, and assets to assess living standards. It captures information on the structure of dwellings; access to water, sanitation, and energy, ownership of consumer goods, and the number of people living in a household. It also collects residents' mobile numbers for official communication.

The HLO phase will lay the foundation for the second phase of the Census – Population Enumeration – scheduled for February 2027. In Ladakh and the snow-bound regions of Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh, both phases have been set a deadline of September 30, 2026, due to weather constraints.

The second phase will enumerate caste and collect other detailed individual-level data, including religion. Each enumerator gets an honorarium of ₹25,000 for completing the task. So far, 23 States and Union Territories have completed the first phase.

Meeting strangers

With several occupants being working professionals, Soumina said it was difficult to get them to answer questions during the day.

"Most residents leave for work around 8.30 in the morning. So I visited homes between 7 and 7.30 with my husband. While some were accommodative, others asked us to come again later or skip the exercise altogether," she said.

If a house was locked, she would go back again and again until she got the data, Soumina added. "Sometimes the visit extended into the evening, so I would again go with my husband."

Like her, many female enumerators, mostly government school teachers, said they asked their husbands or other male members in their families to accompany them during field visits.

Meenu Verma, a primary school teacher from Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh, said that her husband and brother-in-law helped her during the exercise. "I was assigned 172 houses," she said. "My husband and I used to wake up at 4 in the morning and reach the assigned village by 7. From 7 to about 11, we would find people in their homes, but after noon, due to the heat, the entire village would be deserted."

She said they would then hesitate to knock on doors. "Many of them had no awareness about the Census, so we had to first explain it them. I want to request the government to appoint enumerators in pairs. Or a male colleague should accompany a female enumerator. Not everyone is polite. And in villages, houses are spread afar," Verma said.

On May 21, a First Information Report (FIR) was registered against a Delhi resident for allegedly harassing a female Census enumerator while she was on duty. On June 13, a Delhi court convicted the accused, Sandeep Panwar, 43, for the crime. Earlier, on April 25, a female Census enumerator was allegedly denied entry into an apartment building in Bengaluru where an unidentified individual allegedly used abusive language against her, following which an FIR was registered against him.

Census enumerators in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Dinesh Kumar Dwivedi, a Hindi lecturer at a government school, who was Soumina's supervisor, said six enumerators were reporting to him. "Fetching data from slum clusters was easier than seeking information from multi-storey apartments," he said.

In Haryana and Delhi, Census enumerators, mostly government school teachers, complained that they faced hostility and were denied entry by residents of high-rise buildings and residents' welfare associations (RWAs). The district administration of Gurugram wrote letters to RWAs saying that according to Section 8(2) of the Census Act, 1948, every resident is "legally bound" to answer Census-related questions to the best of their knowledge or belief.

"The slum residents were hesitant initially," said Dwivedi, who collected data as an enumerator during the 2011 Census. "They thought this was an exercise to demolish the slums. When they understood its purpose, they were more than forthcoming. Some thought that participating in it would make them eligible for government schemes. Many others came to us with documents, asking for help in applying for welfare schemes."

Dwivedi recalled that in 2011, the process was tedious: all the data had to be noted down on paper, which could get lost or damaged. He said residents were reluctant to share information on assets as they feared tax raids.

The digital divide

Beyond personal safety, the digital divide in India has also affected fieldwork. In metros and towns with better mobile connectivity, enumerators entered data directly on their phones. Elsewhere, they said they recorded details on paper or in notebooks and uploaded them on the app after going back home.

According to the Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom, conducted from January to March 2025 as a part of the 80th round of the National Sample Survey, 83.3 % of rural households and 91.6% of urban households had access to Internet. The total number of households surveyed was 34,950 (19,071 in rural areas and 15,879 in urban areas) and the total number of people was 1.42 lakh (82,573 in rural areas and 59,492 in urban areas). In the survey, a person was considered to have "used the internet" if they had accessed it at least once in the past three months.

"Connectivity is a huge issue, especially in rural areas. Once an enumerator has logged in, it is difficult to make changes, and if the network is poor, the data can get corrupted," said an enumerator from U.P.

Enumerators use their own phones to collect the data and have been asked not to delete the apps during the enumeration phase. However, they said the app crashes often.

On the Google Play Store, the Census 2027 Houselist App, which has more than 10 lakh downloads, has a rating of 2.9. It can only be downloaded by authorised users – enumerators, supervisors, and charge officers. Of the 4,570 reviews submitted, 2,054 users gave it a one-star rating, while 1,735 rated it five stars.

Facing FIRs

On the outskirts of Delhi, in U.P.'s Noida, Sector-6, Indu Prakash Singh, charge officer, who oversees the work of enumerators and supervisors, set up a camp office at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre to monitor Census-related work. Officials with technical expertise were stationed in a large hall, with computer screens placed on desks arranged in a semicircle.

Singh's job was to ensure the smooth conduct of the exercise, which entailed surveying 2,309 house-listing blocks (HLBs), each comprising 150-180 households with a population of 800-1,000. The exercise ran from May 22 to June 20 in U.P.

Though Census activities are usually carried out by government employees, in U.P., private-school teachers were also enrolled to tide over the shortage of government school teachers.

"The district administration in Noida issued directions to engage teachers from private schools for Census work," Singh said.

"But some of them moved the Allahabad High Court, which ruled in their favour, and 50% of the 1,000 teachers who were trained backed out at the last moment. We were forced to engage NGOs and other private people for the task," said a government official in Noida.

In Maharashtra, over 500 private unaided and minority schools moved the Bombay High Court in May against notices, appointment orders, and coercive steps such as FIRs issued against their teaching and non-teaching staff for failing to report for Census duties.

On May 22, the Court granted interim protection to the school associations and observed that Section 4A of the Census Act applies only to "local authorities" and prima facie the Census Act and the Census Rules, 1990 do not impose any statutory obligation on private unaided schools to provide their staff as enumerators or supervisors.

There have been several instances of enumerators facing FIRs for not taking up the assigned work. Though the total figures are difficult to assess, at least two FIRs were filed in Haryana against 10 enumerators, while a case each was filed in Noida and Greater Noida against more than 80 enumerators on June 3.

The National Crime Records Bureau reports for 2010 and 2011, when the first and second phases of the Census were last conducted, do not mention any cases registered under the Census Act.

Enumerators took to social media to flag issues such as heat and connectivity problems. They also reported witnessing stark income inequality, and described pressure from superiors to edit data in the name of correcting discrepancies.

Editing data

Earlier, it often took months or even years to process Census forms. Mobile apps have now enabled real-time data monitoring through the Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) portal. Access to the data entered via the app is available not only to enumerators, but also to supervisors and charge officers. Enumerators said they were asked to change data, particularly for questions related to sanitation, electricity, and LPG connection.

A school teacher in Delhi said during training, for a question relating to "access to latrine", they were asked not to select the "no" option. This is used as a category for households without access to a latrine, and indicates open defecation. The "Yes" option is further broken down into "Exclusively for household use only (1)," "Shared with other households (2)," and "Public latrine (3)."

"During training, we were told to fill in the data observed by us," said an enumerator from Rajasthan. "On the field, many residents in my enumeration block said they defecate in the open. When I submitted the data, I was asked by my supervisor to revisit the homes and revise the data to show that the households had access to a latrine, even if a public toilet was anywhere in the vicinity."

Another enumerator from U.P. said they were also asked to edit data on the main source of drinking water. The options include tap water from treated source/untreated source, well, hand pump, tubewell/borehole, spring, river/canal, tank/pond/lake, packaged/bottled water and other sources. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, one of the flagship schemes of the Bharatiya Janata Party government, nearly 81.97% households in India have tap water connection.

"When I filled untreated tap water as an option, the supervisor and the charge officers asked me to change the entry to tap water from treated source. What is the point of door-to-door enumeration then," asked the enumerator.

The question on the availability of a kitchen and LPG/PNG connection were also edited, the enumerator added. "Even if the house has an LPG connection in their name, they were using cow dung cakes or wooden logs to cook as they had not refilled the cylinders for several months. If we mentioned firewood or charcoal as the response, which is what we observed, we were asked to change the entry to show that the main fuel is LPG," said an enumerator from Rajasthan. According to the Press Information Bureau, national LPG coverage rose from 55.9% in April 2014 to 107.2% in April 2026. Consumers grew from 14.51 crore to 33.39 crore in the same period.

On June 2, the Director of Census Operations, Rajasthan, wrote to all district functionaries saying "during the analysis of field data collected so far, some discrepancies have been noticed". Charge officers were instructed to "verify the block-level data through the CMMS portal, in accordance with the actual field situation."

Around 11 a.m. on June 12, Manish Kumar, a government employee, went to a building in Noida's Sector-2. An open drain flowed on the side. Several doors were locked since many of the occupants, largely migrants, were away at work. In the courtyard of the three-storey building, a woman was washing bedsheets in a corner using two tubs of water. A man was taking a bath in a narrow veranda outside his one-room accommodation, which he shared with six other members of the family.

Kumar knocked on each door to ensure that every household was enumerated. The rooms that were open mostly had women and children inside. While some residents responded immediately, others were suspicious of Kumar. He noted down the details, stepped out of the building, and then logged the information into the Census app on his phone.

He said he would return in the evening and over the weekend to reach residents whose doors were locked. "A household must be labelled vacant or locked only after multiple visits," he said.

vijaita.singh@thehindu.co.in

From Page One

HC upholds Telegram curbs amid NEET row

"An application or platform performs logical, arithmetic and memory functions through electronic, magnetic or optical impulses, and includes input, output, processing, storage, computer software and communication facilities connected with a computer system or computer network. Accordingly, this court is of the view that Respondent No. 1 was empowered under Section 69A of the IT Act to issue directions for blocking public access to Telegram," it said.

The court rejected Telegram's contention that the order reflected non-application of mind.

The court observed that the government had specifically cited the circulation of purported examination papers, fraudulent activities targeting students and the inability of existing measures to curb recurring violations.

Accepting the Centre's argument that repeated attempts to tackle the problem through channel-specific takedowns on Telegram had failed, the court said, "The government's measures are least restrictive. It cannot be held that the order is disproportionate."

According to material placed before the government, operators of fraudulent networks were routinely creating mirror channels, backup groups and successor accounts after enforcement action, rendering targeted removals ineffective, the court said. The judgment noted that authorities had concluded that "nothing short of a platform-level measure" would protect the integrity of the examination during the critical period preceding the June 21 re-test.

Telegram had argued that it was being unfairly singled out while other social media platforms continued to operate. The company told the court that it had cooperated with authorities, removed flagged content within hours, and had taken down over 900 links related to unlawful NEET content using a combination of artificial intelligence tools and manual moderation.

However, the court held that the emergent circumstances surrounding the NEET-UG controversy justified the government's intervention and that the temporary restrictions were proportionate to the objective of preventing misinformation and criminal activity.

Walking on footpath is a fundamental right: SC

Justice P.S. Narasimha, who authored the judgment, said the fundamental right to walk on demarcated footpaths shall override the privilege of a motorised vehicle.

The judgment came in a case of the death of a five-year-old boy who was crushed to death by a truck while walking to the neighbourhood school with his father.

Justice Narasimha said walking safely and carefree along wide footpaths, without danger lurking at every turn, was the most basic of rights.

"It is the simplest of the human activity, inextricably connected to life," the court said.

The court said the Constitution recognised and guaranteed walking as a fundamental right in its words, "All citizens shall have the right... to move freely throughout the territory of India".

But over the years, demands of economy, trade and rapid urbanisation have relegated walking to an inconvenience. Moving on wheels have eclipsed human imagination. Governments and local bodies paralleled wide roads and expressways to growth, busily building motorways while leaving little space for the essential pleasure of walking, the court said.

"It could also be elitism to start with, for machines with wheels were only for the rich, but as economies progressed and cheaper motor vehicles were introduced, the entire spectrum of motorised transportation dominated the roads, pushed aside the walkers to the extent that they are treated as a nuisance for the drivers who routinely run over the walkers and their footpaths. This should stop from now on as we declare the fundamental right to walk on demarcated footpaths alongside motorised roads," the top court said.

"Walking is a struggle for the not-so-fortunate, meditation in motion for many, resistance for others, discovery for the inquisitive, a cohesive strategy for sharp socio-political minds. It certainly did inspire and ignite some of the ideals of the freedom struggle... In that sense, walking is not just motion, it certainly embodies expressional, congregational and associational rights under Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(1)(b) and Article 19 (1)(c)," Justice Narasimha said.

Karnataka to urge Maharashtra to release two tmcft of water

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka government will urge Maharashtra to release Krishna river water from its reservoirs to help north Karnataka tide over its drinking water scarcity. A delegation from the State government led by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is likely to meet Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday or Sunday, Irrigation Department officials said.

The delegation plans to seek the release of two tmcft of water, which will be paid for, officials said.

Police, probe agencies get app to scan fingerprints on the go

Abhigyan app will let police verify thumb impressions collected on portable scanners against NAFIS database within seconds; this will strengthen ground-level policing, says Home Minister

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Data patrol: The app enables field police personnel to access a vast repository of criminal records directly on their smartphones. PTI

Police and investigating agencies across the country will soon be equipped with portable fingerprint scanners linked to a national database of 1.3 crore criminal suspects and convicts, letting them stop individuals anywhere, even on the streets, to collect thumb impressions and instantly check for any pending criminal records on their smartphones.

Abhigyan, an app developed by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) to implement the procedure, was launched by Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday.

The app links to the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS), which stores fingerprint scans of accused, convicts, and those in prisons. A demonstration of the app showed that prints can be matched with the NAFIS database in 35 seconds.

Routine checks

"During routine vehicle checks on the streets, biometric scans of any suspicious individual can be conducted to identify persons wanted in connection with crimes. Field officers can get the criminal history of the suspect in few seconds. This will provide protection to the police as they will be alerted of the presence of a hardened criminal," the demonstration stated.

An NCRB official told *The Hindu* that the Criminal Procedure Identification Act, 2022 provides the legal basis for such checks. However, Section 3 of the Act seems to limit the mandatory recording of measurements, including fingerprints, to people who have been convicted or arrested, and those ordered to give security for good behaviour or maintaining peace under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The Act does not mention the possibility of random testing of individuals without any evidence linking them to a punishable offence.

At present, the facility to check fingerprints against the NAFIS database is only available through 1,556 workstations deployed at police stations and district headquarters across the country. The current process involves bringing an individual to the workstation to match his or her fingerprints with the database.

Mr. Shah said that the app enables field police personnel to access a vast repository of criminal records directly on their smartphones. "Secured with two-step authentication, it allows real-time fingerprint identification within seconds, strengthening ground-level policing. Equipped with features such as fast identification, portability, and access to millions of records, 'Abhigyan' is a highly powerful tool," the minister said.

NAFIS should not be used merely to identify offenders, he said, noting that its effectiveness depends on continuously enriching the database by uploading fingerprints collected from every crime scene, Mr. Shah said.

Focus on prosecution

He said that continued emphasis must be placed not only on apprehending offenders but also on ensuring that crimes are proven in a time-bound manner. The focus should not be limited merely to the arrest of criminals but on time-bound justice, he added.

The Home Minister said that training modules should incorporate the art of drafting concise chargesheets, along with the precise processes of collecting, preserving, and uploading scientific evidence.

SC refuses urgent hearing on plea to defer NEET retest

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Bench had earlier termed cancellation of NEET-UG as 'very traumatic' for students

For the second time this week, the Supreme Court on Friday declined to grant an urgent hearing to a petition challenging the National Testing Agency's (NTA) decision to conduct the NEET-UG 2026 examination once again for nearly 22 lakh candidates.

The medical entrance examination, originally held on May 3, was cancelled nationwide on May 12 following allegations of a question paper leak. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) subsequently launched a probe, and a retest has been scheduled for June 21. "We will not entertain any request for urgent hearing," a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said, while hearing a plea by 11 aspirants who claimed to be experiencing heightened stress in the wake of allegations about the retest, and the limited time available for preparation.

'Severe stress'

Appearing for the petitioners, advocate Adeel Ahmed clarified that the students were not opposed to the retest itself, but were deeply concerned by the recent developments. "Candidates are under severe stress and anxiety. There are rumours of a paper leak affecting the integrity of the re-NEET exam as well," he submitted, adding that students had also expressed concerns over the limited preparation time available.

The Chief Justice refused to entertain the petition, observing that the petition would come for hearing before a Bench led by Justice P.S. Narasimha. However, Justice Narasimha's Bench is scheduled to hear the case only after the Supreme Court resumes regular sittings on July 13, effectively rendering the plea infructuous.

The petition argued that the decision to hold a fresh test within a short span of time had heightened uncertainty and anxiety among aspirants.

Earlier, the Bench led by Justice Narasimha had raised serious concerns over the cancellation of the examination , describing the development as "very traumatic".

Pakistan is an example of a 'Frankenstein state', India says at UN

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India has slammed Pakistan at the United Nations, calling it a "Frankenstein state" that gets shocked when its "own monster bites back", as it accused Islamabad of "hosting, training and deploying" terrorists.

The remarks were made by Anupama Singh, First Secretary at India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, on Wednesday, after Pakistan and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) raised the issue of Jammu & Kashmir during the Interactive Dialogue on the UN High Commissioner's annual report. "We categorically reject the baseless and malicious allegations made by Pakistan," Ms. Singh said. "This is the country with a sitting Defence Minister who boasts of hosting, training, and deploying terrorists as state policy, and yet Pakistan calls itself a victim of terrorism."

"It (Pakistan) is a living example of a Frankenstein state, which is shocked when its own monster bites back," she added.

She also said that "denial of basic freedoms has brought matters to a point where even demands for rights and dignity are met with bullets and brutality."

Extraordinary level of opacity, says Congress leader on Nicobar project

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Jairam Ramesh

Congress Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh on Friday termed Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav's latest defence of the Great Nicobar Island Project "disappointing and unsatisfactory." He charged the Ministry of an "extraordinary level of non-transparency" in withholding reports, studies and plans on the project's environmental safeguards.

Mr. Ramesh was replying to a letter from Mr. Yadav dated June 13, which was itself a response to the Congress leader's communication of June 3. The exchange is the latest in a sustained correspondence stretching back well over a year, in which Mr. Ramesh has repeatedly challenged the adequacy of the project's environmental impact assessments and the secrecy around the High-Powered Committee (HPC) report on the proposed transshipment port's coastal regulation status.

Mr. Yadav's June 13 reply leaned heavily on the National Green Tribunal (NGT). On February 16, 2026, an NGT bench cleared the way for the project, holding that "considering the strategic importance" of it and "other relevant considerations," it found "no good ground to interfere."

The ₹81,000-crore project is expected to involve the felling of close to a million trees and construction on a leatherback turtle nesting site, drawing sustained criticism over its ecological footprint and the rights of the Shompen, a particularly vulnerable tribal group. Mr. Ramesh said that the environmental impact assessments were "demonstrably inadequate and fall woefully short of guidelines" set by the Ministry itself.

Six-monthly compliance reports, he noted, had not been published since March 2024, while conservation and mitigation plans by bodies including the Wildlife Institute of India and the Zoological Survey of India remained unavailable.

The strategic rationale was no justification for opacity as everything that he sought "in no way comes in the way of fulfilling so-called strategic objectives", Mr. Ramesh said.

'A self-reliant nation can move forward confidently'

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

A nation capable of meeting its own requirements moves forward with the greatest confidence towards safeguarding its interests, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday, while laying the foundation stone for a state-of-the-art, 10,000-tonne aluminium extrusion press at Ordnance Factory Ambajhari, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

The project, being established at Yantra India Limited's OFA unit, is aimed at strengthening India's indigenous manufacturing capabilities in sectors such as defence, aerospace, missiles, railways and aviation.

Describing the facility as a symbol of India's transition from import dependence to self-reliance, he said securing critical industrial capabilities within the country had become imperative in the current geopolitical environment.

3-language policy not viable, say CBSE schools in Nagaland

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

English has served as the shared language of communication across tribal communities in formal settings, the school principals said. PTI

Principals from Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) affiliated schools in Nagaland have written to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan conveying their difficulty in implementing the compulsory three-language policy framework, including introduction of Sanskrit, in Naga schools.

The letter dated May 23 states that principals from 19 CBSE schools in Nagaland have on-ground concerns about implementation of R3 framework, where a compulsory third language is to be introduced from Class 6 onwards with at least two of them being native Indian languages, considering the unique socio-linguistic context of Nagaland.

'Linguistically complex'

The letter states that Nagaland is home to over 17 major recognised tribes and dozens of sub-tribes each with their own distinct language and oral tradition. "Unlike most Indian States where a dominant regional language unifies communities, Nagaland has no single native tongue that all Nagas share. English has served as practical lingua franca across tribal communities in formal settings," the letter states.

"In many of our urban and semi-urban schools, a single classroom holds children from more than 30 different linguistic backgrounds – Ao, Angami, Sumi, Lotha, Konyak, Chang, Phom, Zeliang, Chakhesang, Pochuri, Rengma, Khiamniungan, Tikhir, Yimkhiung and so on," the letter further adds.

Principals in CBSE-affiliated schools of Nagaland have urged the Education Ministry to grant Nagaland a special linguistic exemption or a flexible framework as it is a "linguistically complex territory".

They have also requested the State government to establish a scheme for deputation of trained language teachers to CBSE-affiliated schools.

Palestine envoy seeks medical assistance for Gaza, West Bank

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Abdullah M. Abu Shawesh

The Palestinian Authority has called upon the Union government and Indian humanitarian organisations to act "urgently" and help the Palestinian healthcare sector overcome the "state of collapse" it is currently in, following nearly three years of military campaign by Israel.

Citing the "Aarogya Maitri" project of the Government of India, the Ambassador of Palestine, Abdullah M. Abu Shawesh, in a press conference on Friday, said the project should be extended to the Palestinian health sector that is facing a "catastrophic" situation. "Recently, the Honourable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi announced the 'Aarogya Maitri' project, where he pledged, and I quote his words, "Under this project, India will provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disaster or humanitarian crises," said Mr. Abu Shawesh, seeking help for the Palestinian people in both Gaza Strip and West Bank.

He said the Palestinian Ministry of Health currently needs to provide approximately 520 essential medicines to hospitals, but almost 180 of these drugs are "completely unavailable". "Furthermore, out of 97 medicines specialised for cancer and tumour treatment, 50 are currently at zero stock levels, placing nearly 4,000 cancer patients at immediate risk," he said.

Trinamool faces fresh exits, arrests in Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Almost six weeks after facing defeat in the West Bengal Assembly election, desertions, resignations, and arrests of Trinamool Congress leaders continue in the State. On Friday, former West Bengal Minister Jyoti Priya Mallick, once known to be close to party chairperson Mamata Banerjee, resigned from the party, citing his failing health.

Another Trinamool leader, Narendranath Chakraborty, resigned from the post of district president of the party in Paschim Bardhaman district. Mr. Chakraborty wrote a letter to Trinamool State president informing her about his resignation due to failing health.

Gautam Deb, another close confidant of Ms. Banerjee and a prominent leader of north Bengal, resigned as the Mayor of Siliguri Municipal Corporation.

Meanwhile, former Tarakeswar MLA and Trinamool leader Ramendu Sinharoy was arrested by West Bengal Police in Karnataka. According to the police, he was evading authorities due to multiple allegations.

Rebel Trinamool MPs must be disqualified: Abhishek

Party leader urges Lok Sabha Speaker to decide on its disqualification petition at the earliest; he accuses the MPs of disrespecting the Constitution and betraying the mandate of the people

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Seeking action: Trinamool Congress leaders Kalyan Banerjee, Abhishek Banerjee, Mahua Moitra leave after meeting Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, at the Parliament House complex, in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Trinamool Congress leader and national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Friday said the 20 Lok Sabha MPs elected on the party's ticket in the 2024 general election, who have now declared a merger with the little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), are liable for disqualification under the anti-defection law.

Mr. Banerjee said the party submitted all relevant Supreme Court judgments concerning the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and urged him to rule on the disqualification petition at the earliest.

"We presented all Supreme Court judgments concerning the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution to the Speaker. All cases are against them (the rebel group). They are claiming to be a separate group, they want one of them to be elected the Lok Sabha leader of NCPI, Chief Whip and so on. This isn't possible. They have to be disqualified," he said.

Mr. Banerjee said the Constitution clearly mandates that at least two-thirds of the political party, and not just the legislature party, must agree to a merger for it to be considered valid.

"We have left it to the judgment of the Speaker. Mr. Birla told us that he will call the 20 rebel MPs for a hearing and then come back to us. I hope the Lok Sabha Speaker works on a constitutional basis and does not smother the Constitution," he said.

Mr. Banerjee accused the 20 MPs of "disrespecting" the Constitution and betraying the mandate of the people. "They claim they have a problem with the Trinamool Congress, so then why not vacate the seats? If you have political integrity, let there be an election; they can contest on the BJP ticket or NCPI ticket and let the public decide," he said.

He alleged that external pressure and inducement were behind the decision of the 20 MPs. "Someone is worried about ED, someone about CBI, someone is getting money, some are giving in to intimidation. I have concrete proof about this. If any of them feel offended by my remarks, they should file a case against me. I will prove it in a court of law," he said.

He said that in the past month and a half, he had been summoned five times. "Thrice I have gone to CID, twice my house has been raided," he said.

On the contrary, the security cover for the 20 MPs has been enhanced by a government "that runs bulldozers on people", he added.

Sena (UBT) MP says no other option; points to lack of funds for development

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Omraje Nimbalkar, the Shiv Sena (UBT) MP speculated to be among a group of six breakaway MPs planning to form a separate bloc, broke his silence on Friday.

Speaking to *The Hindu* from Pune, the Lok Sabha member from Dharashiv said he felt torn and did not think he had been left with any other alternative. On whether he had already formed a separate group, he said he would speak about it only on Sunday or Monday.

On whether he was slated to meet Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde, he replied in the negative. He said he would decide on his future course of action only after speaking with the people in his constituency.

"Let the verdict in my father's murder come... I am seeking justice for my father... The CBI has done a good job. The trial went well. It is a very emotional point for us. My father was murdered. And I seek justice," he told *The Hindu*.

Omprakash Nimbalkar

Mr. Nimbalkar's father, Congress leader Pawanraje Nimbalkar, was shot dead in 2006 by alleged contract killers. A special CBI court in Mumbai will pronounce its judgment in the murder case on Saturday.

Key case

The case, which has seen a trial lasting 15 years, alleges that former Nationalist Congress Party MP Padamsinh Patil orchestrated the murder of Pawanraje Nimbalkar using contract killers. Mr. Patil is the elder brother of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar.

When Mr. Nimbalkar was asked if his decision to switch over depended on the court verdict, he said: "No. I am waiting for the verdict, but my decision will not depend on that."

Hinting that he was being forced to move out of the Shiv Sena (UBT), he said it had become difficult to function effectively due to the lack of funds.

"We [our party] could not win any Nagar Panchayat or Nagar Samiti elections. Don't even ask about Zilla Parishad... In Dharashiv, my candidate was relegated to the third position. After being available for the people in the constituency, after working for them for 24 hours, if this is what people want, then they want only those who are in power," he claimed.

Responding to a question on the alleged backlash and the increase in security, Mr. Nimbalkar said he was a "people's person". "There is no fear of backlash. I will go to my own people. I feel bad that I don't get funds for the development of my own people. I am opposed when I want to get my people's work done. Are you stopping me because I am in Opposition? All these things are impacting me in the elections. My people expect me to deliver, and I am unable to work for them. What alternative am I left with?" he asked.

Parliamentary panel seeks clarity from govt. on future engagement with Pakistan

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor interacts with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri in New Delhi. PTI

Days after RSS leaders advocated keeping the window open for "people-to-people" ties with Pakistan, members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs on Friday questioned Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and other officials on whether the government is considering such a step.

Ministry officials said Track-II diplomacy by non-governmental groups has continued with Pakistan, though they did not express confidence in it having any significant impact on changing Pakistan's stance.

The meeting was convened to brief the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, headed by senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, before the panel's study tour to Jammu, Srinagar, and Leh from June 22 to 25.

According to sources, several questions were raised on future engagement with Pakistan, including whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi would attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit slated to be held in Pakistan next year. The Ministry did not give a clear reply, saying it is too early to take a call.

Specifically, after government-to-government talks between the two countries made little headway, questions were raised on whether the Modi government is open to encouraging people-to-people ties. According to sources, the External Affairs Ministry said the government desires "normal neighbourly relations" but emphasised that this has to "happen in an atmosphere free of violence and terrorist activity".

The Ministry also pointed out that 4,600 Indian pilgrims have visited Pakistan this year. The diplomatic mission, along with weekly telephone calls between Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) across the Line of Control, has continued, officials said. The ceasefire has also largely held, a Ministry official added.

On China, External Affairs Ministry officials, according to sources, stressed that people-to-people ties are strengthening. More visas are expected to be issued this year for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

Attempt to tarnish image: CPI(ML) on 'cross-voting'

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya on Friday wrote to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge protesting against the allegations of cross-voting levelled against the party following the Rajya Sabha elections in Jharkhand.

"I write to you to express our protest against the malicious propaganda against our MLAs and the attempted tarnishing of our party's image," he said, adding that his party was a committed constituent of the INDIA bloc.

Uddhav offers to step down while Shinde hints at more defections

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Uddhav Thackeray

In an emotional appeal to his party leaders and cadres on the 60th foundation day of the united Shiv Sena on Friday, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray offered to step down as the party's president if they believed in the allegations levelled against him by the defected parliamentarians.

He also called for starting 'Operation Lotus' in response to 'Operation Tiger' allegedly carried out by the Shiv Sena to lure six of its nine Lok Sabha MPs into its fold. Mr. Thackeray also refuted allegations that his party was likely to merge with the Congress.

Targeting the BJP for "dirty politics", he said that Gen Z, which was being termed as "cockroaches", would bring about a change in the country. He hit out at the party for using 2.5 lakh paramilitary forces in West Bengal "to defeat a woman". "The BJP is moving from 'One Nation, One Election', to 'One Nation, No Election'," he said. "We will have to do Operation Lotus. The way politics of this country is being conducted, people's faith in democracy is eroding. This is a threat to democracy. The way we are going currently, we are moving towards anarchy," he said.

Taking a dig at the MPs who have allegedly defected, he said that his party did not merge with the BJP despite being with them for 30 years. "And those who are leaving say that they feared we will merge with the Congress," he said while speaking to party cadre at Mumbai's Shanmukhanand Hall. He was accompanied by his son Aaditya Thackeray, wife Rashmi Thackeray, party MPs, and MLAs.

Meanwhile, during the foundation day event at NESCO Ground, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde hinted at more defections. Without referring to 'Operation Tiger', he said that the public "has only seen a trailer, and that the movie was yet to be screened".

"Balasaheb Thackeray's true heirs are my Shiv Sainiks. Succession is not determined by blood relations but by ideology. Shiv Sena is not a piece of land; it is the ideology of millions of people," he said.

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No.Civil/EST/09/2026-27 : TCN No.15374, Dt.30/05/2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Block level Stadium (with Indoor Hall) in Bonai Block under Sundargarh District.
2. Value of the Work : Rs.1292.06 lakhs
3. Period of completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding :
i. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of dt.24.06.2026
ii. End Date : 17:00 Hours of dt.09.07.2026
iii. Opening date : 11.30 Hours of dt.10.07.2026.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in e-procurement portal as well as in IDCO website.

4001/165/2627
Chief General Manager (Civil), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-4001/4075/1/26-27/0053

अजमेर विकास प्राधिकरण, अजमेर
टोडरमल रोड, विंडसर पार्क्स, अजमेर, Email :- ajmerada@gmail.com,
Website :- www.rajasthan.gov.in/ada, Tel.No. :- 0145-2627748-2627749
क्रमांक :- अविप्रा/प.2/तकनीकी/2026-27/राजकाज 22828279 दिनांक :- 12/06/2026
E-TENDER - 11/2026-27
Bids for various work amounting Rs. 3024-68 Lacs are invited from interested bidders for upto 09.07.2026 , 6:00 pm. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) & (http://sppp.raj.nic.in) http://www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/ada departmental website.
UBN No. : AJD2627WLOB00062 - 00063
Raj.Samwad/C/26/5117
Executive Engineer

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA SLUM DEVELOPMENT BOARD
No. 55, Abhaya Complex, Risaldar Street, Seshadripuram,BENGALURU-560 020. Ph.:080-23460085
No: KSDB/Commr/CE/Mandya- RAY/2026-27 Dated:17.06.2026
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (2nd Call)
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
The Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB), Bengaluru invites lumpsum tenders through KPP Portal for Construction of 127(G+1) Dus at Halahally Sy.no.14 & 16 and behind Kalikamba Temple in Mandya City under RAY scheme Using Fast Track Construction Technology (Design, Build and Transfer (DBT) basis from eligible Registered Class I and above Contractors (2nd Call).

Calendar of Events	
Date and Time for Pre-Bid Conference	24.06.2026 at 11:00 AM
Last date and time for receipt of Tender Documents	03.07.2026 at 05:30 PM
Time and Date of Opening of Tender Documents (Qualification Information)	06.07.2026 at 11:00 AM
Place of Receiving and Opening of Tender Documents	Office of the Chief Engineer, Karnataka Slum Development Board, #55, 1st Floor Abhaya Complex, Risaldar Street Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020, Phone: +91-80-23564651, 23462436. Email id: Ksdbce@gmail.com Website :https://ksdb.karnataka.gov.in
Time and Date of Opening of Financial Bid	Time and Date will be Intimated for the eligible bidders

If there are any changes to the above notification, it will be published in e-procurement portal only. Tender Documents, schedule, specifications are available on the website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Tender form fees & EMD details are available on the kpp portal. EMD and tender processing fees shall be paid using E-Procurement payment modes only. Tender application must be accompanied by earnest money deposit specified for the works and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of tender date.
Sd/- Commissioner,
Karnataka Slum Development Board, Bangalore
DIPR/CP/JA/1250/2026-27

WATER CORPORATION OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
GROUND FLOOR, UNNATI BHAWAN, HOUSING BOARD COLONY, SATYANAGAR, BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA -751007 Telefax: +91-674-2391444
e-mail: mdwatcoodisha@gmail.com / watcoodisha@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING BID
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT
Bid Identification No. WATCO (W)-07/2026-27, Dt.12.06.2026
No. 5761 / Date: 12.06.2026 [File No.WAT- 3051/2026-27]
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR
The Managing Director, WATCO, Bhubaneswar under the administrative control of Housing & Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha (the "Client/Authority") is engaged in the Execution, Operation & Maintenance of Water Supply Projects for different ULBs in the State of Odisha and, as part of this endeavor, Govt. of Odisha has decided to undertake "following Work (the "Project") under EPC Contract (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) basis, and has decided to carry out the bid process for selection of the eligible contractor to whom the Project may be awarded eventually for Construction as well as for Operation & Maintenance.

Sl No	Name of the Project	Bid Identification No.	Indicative Total Project Cost (Rs.in Lakh)	Construction Period
1.	Construction of 5 Nos of branch storm water drain (Box Drain) namely Drain No.3L, 3R, 4R, 5R & 6R of MSWC-1 of Cuttack Municipal corporation on EPC Contract (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) basis.	WATCO (W) -07/2026-27	39502.48	30 (Thirty) Months

The complete RFP document can be viewed/downloaded from e-procurement portal of the State Government https://tendersodisha.gov.in from 22.06.2026 (11.00 Hrs. IST) to 31.07.2026 (17.00 Hrs. IST). RFP must be submitted online. RFP through any other mode shall not be entertained.
Name & Address of the Officer Inviting RFP. : The Managing Director, WATCO, Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751 007, Dist. Khordha, Odisha, India. Phone #+91-674-2391444. Email: mdwatcoodisha@gmail.com/watcoodisha@gmail.
Interested bidders may download the Request for Proposal Documents (the "RFP" document) from the above website to see further details for participation in the online bidding
13001/906/2627
OIPR-13001/13263/1/26-27/0007

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For more details, please visit E- Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	Tender ID	Items
1.	2026_KMML_856568_1	Fabrication and Supply of Reactor Cooling Tubes
2.	2026_KMML_856585_1	Supply and commissioning assistance of LPG Vaporizer
3.	2026_KMML_856295_1	Fabrication & Supply of Recycle Gas Cooler
4.	2026_KMML_856239_1	Fabrication & Supply of Heavy Ends Condenser
5.	2026_KMML_855614_1	Supply and Installation of 150M3/HR Automated DM Plant
6.	2026_KMML_856450_1	Supply of Brick Acid Resistant
7.	2026_KMML_856630_1	Supply of Jumbo Bag 1000 Kg capacity
8.	2026_KMML_856625_1	Supply of Chicken meat
9.	2026_KMML_856417_1	Appointment of C & F agents

Chavara. 19.06.2026 Sd/, Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

UTKAL UNIVERSITY
VANI VIHAR, BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA, PIN -751004
CORRIGENDUM
No. Estt.I/1041-C(Vol-IV)/6800/2026 Dated: 18.06.2026
In continuation of this Advertisement No.: 5791, Dated: 18.05.2026 for the Post of Assistant Professor, No.: 5792, Dated: 18.05.2026 for the Post of Associate Professor and No.: 5793, Dated: 18.05.2026 for the Post of Professor, the closing date for online submission of application form in HIMS portal is hereby extended from 20.06.2026 to 29.06.2026. Accordingly, the closing date of receiving the hard copy of the application along with required documents through Speed Post is extended from 29.06.2026 to 10.07.2026.
All other terms and conditions mentioned in the above Advertisements remain unchanged.
By Orders of the Vice Chancellor
Sd/- Registrar, Utkal University

INBRIEF

3 indigenous naval vessels to be launched by PM tomorrow

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will commission three indigenously-built Indian Navy frontline platforms – Dunagiri, Sanshodhak and Agray – at a landmark ceremony at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata on Sunday, marking a significant boost to India's maritime capabilities and indigenous shipbuilding programme. According to the Ministry of Defence, the three vessels, designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, represent critical capabilities across maritime combat, hydrographic surveying and anti-submarine warfare. The three platforms have indigenous content exceeding 75%.

Bihar to help kin of migrant workers killed outside State

The Bihar government on Friday announced that it will bear the cost of transporting the mortal remains of migrant workers to their permanent residences if they die in an accident while working outside the State. Labour Resources and Migrant Workers Welfare Department Additional Chief Secretary K. Senthil Kumar made the announcement at a press conference in Patna. Mr. Kumar said the government has also decided to increase the *ex gratia* amount payable to the legally determined dependent of a deceased migrant worker from ₹2 lakh to ₹4 lakh. The department has also entered into an agreement with NGO Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre for running 'Special Residential Training Centres' for rescued child labourers in Patna, Gaya, and Sitamarhi.

Four glacial lakes in Arunachal have expanded in a decade: study

Analysis by geospatial intelligence firm shows that the 'high-risk' lakes have increased in area, with one of them growing by 10 hectares; expert says expansion warrants attention but should not be interpreted as evidence of an impending disaster

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A satellite-based assessment of five glacial lakes in the Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh has found that four have expanded over the last decade, with one lake showing rapid growth, adding fresh evidence to concerns over the threat posed by Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) in the eastern Himalaya.

The analysis – a report and not a peer-reviewed study – conducted by the Noida-based geospatial intelligence firm Suhora Technologies, examined five lakes in the Mago Chu basin that have been classified by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as "high-risk" or "very high-risk".

The assessment comes amid heightened attention on glacial hazards in the region following a recent risk evaluation by the Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS), Arunachal Pradesh.

Using imagery from ICEYE, PlanetScope, and LISS-IV satellites, Suhora compared the extent of the lakes between 2016 and June 2026. In a press statement, the company said that "four out of five lakes have expanded, reflecting a general trend of glacial retreat and meltwater storage". However, it cautioned that "lake expansion does not directly indicate a flood event" and said the findings instead highlighted "the importance of regular monitoring and further assessment to better understand future risks".

A new satellite study has flagged the importance of continuous monitoring of high-risk glacial lakes in Arunachal Pradesh. PTI

High-risk lakes

Among the lakes analysed, Sanhapo Lake showed the most significant growth. Suhora estimated its area at 78.07 hectares in 2019, increasing to 88.81 hectares by mid-June 2026. The company said that while uncertainties remain regarding its historical extent because of ice cover visible in its 2016 imagery, the lake has exhibited sustained expansion in recent years. Given its size and continued growth, Suhora identified it as the highest-priority lake among those assessed for detailed hazard modelling, continuous monitoring and possible early-warning systems.

The remaining lakes showed more modest changes. Two lakes categorised by the NDMA as "very high risk" expanded by about a hectare over the decade, while Dharkha Tso, listed as "high risk", also recorded gradual growth. A fifth lake remained broadly stable over the observation period.

Amit Kumar, co-founder and chief operating officer of Suhora Technologies, said satellite observations were increasingly important for monitoring remote mountain regions where field access was often difficult. "By comparing satellite imagery across multiple years, it is possible to track changes in glacial lake extent...with the monsoon season approaching, continuous observation of glacial lakes becomes increasingly important", he added.

Anil Kulkarni, glaciologist and distinguished fellow at the Divecha Centre for Climate Change, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and who wasn't connected to the study, said the observed expansion warranted attention but should not be interpreted as evidence of an impending disaster.

"If lakes are expanding, then it is considered as an unstable lake," he said. However, he stressed that the key question was why a lake was growing. Lakes impounded by moraines – ridges of rock and debris deposited by glaciers – can become hazardous when retreating glaciers increase the volume of water trapped behind them. Yet several other factors determine risk, including the possibility of landslides, avalanches or rockfalls entering the lake.

"Mere increase in area, even over a decade, cannot be a single criterion" for judging how dangerous a lake is, Mr. Kulkarni told *The Hindu*. "It can be a concern, but how risky it is, we do not know."

Concerns over floods

Worries over Himalayan glacial hazards have intensified since the October 2023 disaster in Sikkim, when a breach associated with South Lhonak Lake triggered floods that killed dozens of people and destroyed the Chungthang hydropower dam. GLOFs can occur when natural moraine dams fail or when large avalanches, landslides, or icefalls suddenly displace water and generate destructive waves.

Mr. Kulkarni said India's ability to identify potentially dangerous glacial lakes had improved considerably through satellite monitoring and modelling. However, he argued that translating scientific assessments into practical risk reduction remained a major challenge.

Sickle cell anaemia to be eradicated by 2047: Murmu

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said that the country would eradicate sickle cell anaemia well before the government-set target of 2047, while calling for collective efforts to raise awareness about the disorder, especially among tribal communities.

Addressing a Madhya Pradesh Government event in Khandwa district's Omkareshwar, the President said, "Through collective strength and active participation of all States, India would achieve its national goal of eliminating sickle cell-related diseases well before 2047."

She also said that various key targets set during the launch of the National Mission in 2023 have been achieved ahead of schedule, including the screening of seven crore people between zero and 40 years of age. The President said that various scientific studies had shown that sickle cell anaemia among tribal communities was many times higher than in the general population. "I would like to urge all State governments and officials not to take this disease lightly because it passes from one generation to another. Efforts should be made to eradicate it completely," she said.

Truth will prevail, says U.P. CM on probe into Ram temple row

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said that the "truth will prevail" after the Special Investigation Team (SIT) completed its probe into the allegations of embezzlement of the Ram Temple trust donations.

"The government constituted an SIT to conduct an inquiry at the request of the trust. The SIT is tasked with distinguishing between truth and falsehood. Until the SIT's report is finalised, no statements should be made that could offend the sentiments of Ram devotees," Mr. Adityanath said in Ayodhya. The Chief Minister urged Ram devotees not to be misled by those attempting to "tarnish" the reputation of Ayodhya.

Chief Minister urged Ram devotees not to be misled by those attempting to 'tarnish' Ayodhya's reputation

Hitting out at the Opposition, Mr. Adityanath said that those who did not provide electricity to Ayodhya and kept it confined to narrow lanes are now spreading misinformation. Questioning Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Mr. Adityanath said, "He (Mr. Yadav) has not yet visited the Ram Mandir ...he is now making motivated remarks to defame the temple. Their devotion is not towards Ram, they worship Babur."

SC calls for fund for young lawyers; flags 'brain drain' in legal profession

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Observing that the legal profession risks a "brain drain" if financially struggling young lawyers are compelled to abandon litigation for careers offering greater financial stability, the Supreme Court on Friday directed the creation of a "Young Lawyers' Professional Assistance Fund" in every State and Union Territory.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana noted that the initial years often impose severe financial hardships, particularly on first-generation lawyers and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. "A young first-generation lawyer entering the Bar does not immediately inherit an office, a library, a stable clientele, or a predictable source of income. During this formative period, many junior advocates remain dependent upon modest stipends paid by their seniors or, in some places, by local Bar Associations, which are often insufficient to meet even their basic living expenses," the Bench said.

The top court said that initial years in the profession impose severe financial hardships.

To address these concerns, the top court called for the creation of a fund to be placed under the control of the jurisdictional High Courts or an autonomous body constituted by the Union and State governments. "It, thus, seems to us that a Young Lawyers' Professional Assistance Fund must be created and should be established under the exclusive control of the jurisdictional High Courts or an autonomous body constituted by the Union of India in consultation with the State Governments. A framework of such nature will inspire greater confidence amongst prospective donors and contributors to the Fund," the Bench said.

The Bench mooted a "self-sustaining model" for the proposed fund, under which lawyers who receive assistance could contribute back to the corpus once they attain stability.

The top court passed the directions while hearing a petition filed by a group of six women lawyers seeking improved welfare measures for members of the Bar across the country. The petition also drew the court's attention to the absence of adequately equipped Ladies' Bar Rooms and other basic facilities in a majority of High Courts, district courts, tribunals, and commissions. It contended that the lack of such infrastructure adversely affects the ability of women advocates to discharge their professional responsibilities.

Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal is new FATF Vice-President

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenary has appointed Union Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal as the next Vice-President of the global anti-money laundering and counterterrorist financing watchdog for the 2026-2027 term.

"Members approved the priorities of the FATF under the incoming U.K. Presidency, and appointed Mr. Vivek Aggarwal of India as the incoming Vice-President of the FATF (July 2026-June 2027)," said an FATF release. Mr. Aggarwal will succeed Giles Thomson, who has served as FATF Vice-President since July 1, 2025.

Vivek Aggarwal

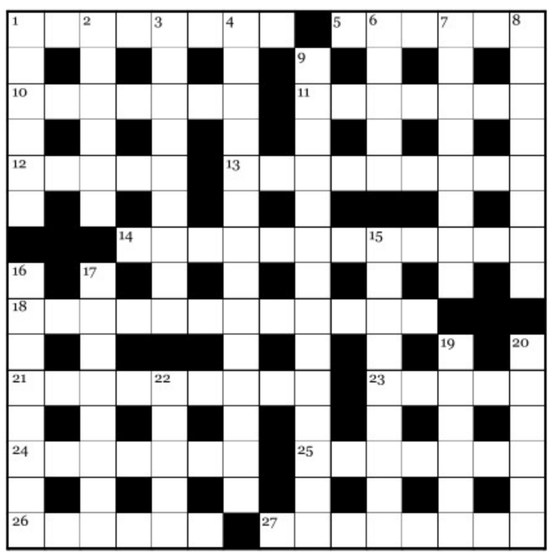
Currently serving as Secretary in the Culture Ministry, Mr. Aggarwal has headed India's delegation to the FATF. He led a multidisciplinary team during India's FATF Mutual Evaluation process. His selection is being viewed as a significant development for India's role in global financial governance and efforts to strengthen international cooperation on issues of anti-money laundering, counterterrorist financing, and illicit financial flows.

TH CROSSWORD + 14825

(set by Hypatia)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1. Saw grades at first and walked unsteadily around school (8)
5. Makes patients consume unlimited drugs (6)
10. Some of mine are still closest (7)
11. Spotted every now and then, Leonardo must be on the way (2,5)
12. Catch hot liquid discharged from the chemical producing resin (5)
13. Source of illumination from tip of lamp, one flickering in darkness (4,5)
14. Secure investment with a steady income? It's dope! (5,7)
18. Are such foods spoiling casino? (5,2,5)
21. Salvaged part of hospital returning to medical complex (9)
23. Initially Arabs brought Yemeni ships safely to Gulf (5)
24. Criminal pushing Ecstasy through sick girl (7)
25. Bush shirt embraced by a man going before that woman (7)
26. Stone age building protecting poor men ultimately on time (6)
27. Audio equipment voyeur heard on board (8)

Down

1. Plant thriving in geranium pots (6)
2. Pictures Hypatia playing games (6)
3. Drop cost covering diamonds picked up to pawn (9)
4. Relatives of former spouse cared for at a filmy set (8,6)
6. Leaders of all parties realigned in last month (5)
7. Slow to respond like a bullet? (8)
8. Suspect a terrorist keeping watch (8)
9. Where to find items people used to sell? (6-4,4)
15. Meditative stance of director in American space agency with plan to retire (9)
16. Spooner's stepping in line? That's lovely (8)
17. Strong Greek character concealing extremely unusual lesion (8)
19. Discontented lady these days eating hard oriental fruit (6)
20. Egyptian God of love coming up regularly from said ruins (6)
22. Fish in corner (5)

SUDOKU

	1							9
			2					8
	3		9	5	1	7		
			4	6			9	
8		4				6		3
	5			9	8			
		6	1	4	9		7	
1					5			
7							6	

No.SS6917 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	4	5	8	6	3	9	1
1	5	9	4	7	3	2	6	8
3	8	6	9	1	2	4	7	5
6	7	5	1	3	8	9	4	2
8	3	1	2	4	9	7	5	6
4	9	2	6	5	7	1	8	3
2	6	8	3	9	4	5	1	7
9	1	3	7	6	5	8	2	4
5	4	7	8	2	1	6	3	9

FAITH

Shed your 'I-ness': Krishna

Lord Krishna tells Arjuna, "Whatever you do, whatever you eat, whatever you offer, whatever you give, and whatever austerities you perform, Oh son of Kunti, do them as an offering to Me." This single verse transforms ordinary life into *sadhana*, said Swami Mitranandaji. Dedication improves quality of action. When we work merely for salary, recognition or ego, the mind stays restless and shortcuts appear. However, the moment an action is dedicated to the Lord, the attitude changes. The Gita calls this 'yoga of action'. Work is no longer mechanical, it becomes worship. The fruit is surrendered. Like cooking for God, the cook tastes but is not attached. Such *nishkama karma* (selfless action) purifies the heart. The law of karma applies to the ego, not to the surrender.

The distance between jeeva and the Divine is only selfishness. We feel far from God not because He is far, but because 'I, me, mine' comes in between. Selfishness is the wall. My desire, my plan, my credit – this "I-ness" hides the Divine. When we drop the claim of ownership, the wall thins. The verse (opening para) attacks selfishness and asks us to offer everything. It is easy to start in a small way and develop selflessness. Krishna does not ask for renunciation overnight. Begin with one action , whatever it may be, offer it mentally, saying "This is for You". Slowly, expand this mood to more activities. As selfish motives drop, selfless service grows naturally. Step by step, one's life itself becomes an offering. The quote from Bhagavad Gita shows a practical path. One should dedicate oneself, one should conduct oneself with quality; one should be free from karma, get rid of selfishness. He will take care.

INBRIEF

World Bank approves $1.5 bn support for India reform plan

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors on Friday approved $1.5 billion financing to India to support structural reforms aimed at boosting private sector-led job creation and economic growth, it said in a statement. It added the financing, being provided under Development Policy Financing (DPF) Operation, can create job opportunities for 11 million youth who would be entering the labour market every year over the next two decades. The Bank's DPF seeks to rapidly disburse financing to help a borrower country address existing or anticipated development financing requirements. The statement read, "The DPF operation builds on many structural reforms undertaken or initiated in recent years, including tax simplification, trade integration, and legislative and regulatory reforms to improve ease of living and the ease of doing business."

West Asia impact dominated MPC meeting discourse

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) at the last meeting broadly agreed the prolonged conflict in West Asia had emerged as the most significant risk to India's economic outlook, the minutes of the meeting indicated. The disruption of energy supplies, higher crude oil prices, elevated shipping and insurance costs and uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz have increased concerns about inflation, growth, external balances, and financial market stability, the minutes showed. Consequently, all members agreed to maintain the policy repo rate at 5.25% and retaining a neutral stance, emphasising a cautious 'wait-and-watch' approach. A common theme across the statements of various members was that India had entered the current crisis from a position of relative strength.

Jio files DRHP for biggest IPO, size up to ₹40,000 crore

The proposed listing of Jio will demonstrate to the world that India can build technology companies of global scale, global capability and global value, says Mukesh Ambani

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Jio Platforms Ltd. (JPL) filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for an Initial Public Offer (IPO) of fresh issue of 27 crore shares at a price to be discovered later through a book-building method.

The size of the issue is likely at between ₹35,000 crore and ₹40,000 crore, making it India's biggest ever IPO, larger than the proposed NSE IPO which will be about ₹30,000 crore.

So far, the country' biggest IPO has been that of Hyundai Motor India, at about ₹28,000 crore.

Earlier on Friday, Jio Platform board approved the filing of the DRHP to dilute 2.5% stake of the company under the new rules of SEBI for mega listings. As per the filing JPL, from the net proceeds of the fresh issue, would use ₹27,500 crore to repay debt of material subsidiary Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. The balance would be utilised for general corporate purposes and towards issue expenses.

Debt reduction: From the net proceeds of IPO, Jio would use ₹27,500 crore to repay the debt of a subsidiary. REUTERS

Earlier, addressing the AGM, RIL CMD Mukesh Ambani said "This [filing] is a deeply emotional moment for me, for the entire Reliance family, and millions of its shareholders."

"Akash, Isha and Anant [his children] are heading the Jio IPO process and will lead the next generation of value creation opportunities in the future," he said.

"The proposed listing of Jio will demonstrate to the world that India can build technology companies of global scale, global capability, and global value."

Key player

Jio Platforms is already a key player in India's digital economy, which is expected to reach $1.4 trillion by fiscal 2031. As of March 31, Jio Platforms served 524.4 million customers.

While Jio Platforms is much smaller in comparison to global platforms such as Alphabet, Meta, Microsoft and Amazon, its position as a leader in the fast-growing Indian market and stakes held by Meta and Alphabet may push up its valuation.

Nifty IT dips on Accenture revenue guidance

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The 10-share Nifty IT index slid 3.65% to 27,426.85 as Accenture Plc. cut full year revenue guidance on macro-economic uncertainty and West Asia crisis.

Infosys slid the most (6.5%) among peers while TCS, LTM and Tech Mahindra slid around 3%. Oracle (OFSS) was the only stock to be in positive territory.

Accenture Plc. delivered its returns for Q3 in which it highlighted it suffered a $100 million impact due to the uncertainties that came from the West Asian conflict and expects greater impact in the next quarter.

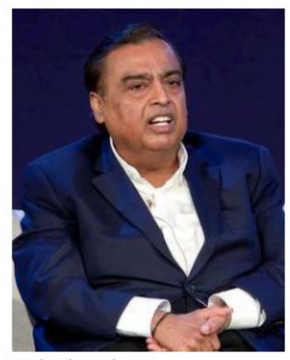
"For the full fiscal, we now expect our revenue to be in the range of 3% to 4% growth in local currency over previous fiscal, including an estimated 1% impact from our federal business," Angie Park, CFO, Accenture Plc. told analysts in the Q3 earnings. This is a revision from the full fiscal year revenue growth guidance of 3% to 5% that the company gave in its Q2 earning call.

"We were impacted by the conflict in the Middle East. We saw a revenue impact of approximately $100 million compared to our expectations, which is all consulting type of work, split evenly between the direct impact on Middle East business and indirect effects outside of the region."

Julie T. Sweet, CEO and chairperson said, "The indirect impact really started in the last few weeks and mostly in discretionary spend."

Jio eyes satellite communications

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI


Mukesh Ambani

Jio is evaluating the development of a sovereign Low Earth Orbit satellite constellation for India, said Reliance Industries CMD Mukesh Ambani.

Addressing the AGM, he said, "Jio connected India on the ground. Now, we must connect India from the skies. There are still remotest villages, island communities and border outposts where Jio network can't reach. For them, satellite connectivity will be the bridge to the rest of India," he said.

"We are also partnering leading global constellation providers by leasing satellite capacity, so that we can accelerate service availability while building our own long-term sovereign capability," he said.

To anchor this ambition, Jio is building its own ground station infrastructure in India, he added.

"These ground stations will support partner constellations as well as our own future satellites, creating an end-to-end satellite broadband ecosystem from space to ground." Mr. Ambani said.

The announcement aligns with the emergence of competition from global satellite broadband players such as SpaceX's Starlink and Amazon's Project Kuiper, both of which are seeking a foothold in India's satellite communications market.

Sovereign AI backbone

Speaking on the future plans for Reliance Intelligence, a subsidiary of RIL dealing with digital infrastructure, Mr. Ambani said, the firm will build 'India's sovereign AI backbone at Jamnagar' to address the scarcity and high cost of compute in AI.

"This cutting-edge infrastructure will be powered entirely by clean energy from Reliance's own solar generation from the Kutch renewable platform. The first 120 MW will be commissioned by the end of 2026," he said.

NVIDIA GPUs

In addition, the company would operationalise an initial fleet of advanced NVIDIA GB300 GPUs. This next-generation compute capacity is equivalent to more than 75,000 H100 GPUs on an AI-inference basis. As the first 120 MW becomes fully operational, this capacity can scale to over two lakh H100-equivalent GPUs, he said.

"This capacity places Reliance among the largest AI infrastructure platforms being built anywhere in the world. When compute becomes affordable, innovation becomes inevitable," he added.

SEBI reintroduces open market stock buyback at board meet

Ashokamithran T
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) reintroduced open market buybacks via stock exchanges after Finance Ministry eased tax treatment of such transactions in Union Budget 2026.

At the first board meeting of FY27, the capital markets watchdog okayed proposals to ease stock buy backs, deepen investments in municipal bonds, transfer of securities to heirs of deceased among others.

Buybacks must be announced electronically and the process should be completed within 66 working days. Buybacks will be done through the normal trading window, SEBI said.

Employing merchant bankers for buyback deals would be optional.

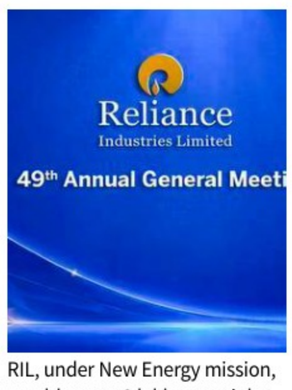
SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey told the media the findings of the study to review the impact of derivatives trading on retail investors would be released in July. SEBI also approved a 'quick transmission process' for transfer of securities of deceased to legal heirs.

SEBI amended municipal debt security regulation to develop the M-bond markets. Local bodies can now issue bonds to refinance existing debt for specific projects. To encourage retail participation, issuers of M-bonds can now offer incentives to senior citizens, women serving defence personnel and bereaved spouses and ex-defence personnel.

Also, SEBI brought in changes to social stock exchange framework to ease investments into them.

RIL to turn oil into chemicals: Ambani

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI



RIL, under New Energy mission, would create 2 lakh green jobs.

In the long run, Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) will convert all the oil it refines into chemicals and new materials, CMD Mukesh Ambani told shareholders.

"This transformation will fundamentally improve the quality, resilience and value of our earnings. I am confident our new Oil-to-Chemicals & Materials business will become even more valuable than our current O2C business," he said at the company's AGM.

He emphasised the "ambition was to make RIL the world's leading integrated energy and materials company for the age of sustainability and intelligence."

Flexible partnerships

He said Reliance, which emerged as a partner for global chemicals and materials majors in this volatile world, was open to flexible partnerships and co-building integrated complexes in India and abroad, anchored in the company's integrated feedstock, manufacturing scale and execution capability, the lowest cost base, and a strong balance sheet.

"India remains one of the most favourable geographies globally for expansion, and RIL offers our partners a single, secure base to serve both - India's large domestic market and global demand," he said.

"The upcoming fully integrated green ecosystem will not only transform our Old Energy business, but also open up significant possibilities for Reliance's and India's future growth," he added.

Reliance, with its five integrated engines of growth - UCG, Bioenergy, New Energy, O2C and the materials business - is now ready to deliver exponentially more value, he said.

With the New Energy & Materials platform,and an AI native way of working, Reliance is transforming its oldest business into a unique first-generation growth platform - "one that cannot be replicated on technology and scale.

Reliance, under it's New Energy mission would create two lakh green jobs.

"That is the number of green jobs we expect to create through the Giga Complex and the Kutch Solar Farm combined. Two hundred thousand Indians - engineers, technicians, operators, construction workers, farmers, and entrepreneurs - whose livelihoods will be built on clean energy," he stated.

Inclusive prosperity

The clean energy transition will be an engine of inclusive prosperity. It will create jobs, reduce import dependence, boost exports, lower energy costs for every Indian home and every Indian factory and fulfil our obligation to save earth from climate crisis.

On India's future, Mr. Ambani said, "The world would now build its new energy on Indian sunshine."

F.No.A-12023/7 /2019-E-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources,
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

VACANCY NOTICE

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), has been constituted by Government of India vide its Notification No. S.O. 2236 (E), dated 01.06.2018 under the provisions of section 6A of the Inter-State River Dispute (ISRWD) Act, 1956 to give effect to the decision of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal as modified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 16.02.2018.

2. Applications are invited from eligible and suitable officers for the 01 (one) post of Chairman, CWMA, in Level-17 (Rs. 2,25,000/- fixed) of pay matrix to be filled on deputation (including short term contract) Re-employment basis.
3. Details of the post, eligibility conditions etc. are available at **jalshakti-dowr.gov.in, dopt.gov.in.** Applications (**in triplicate**) complete in all respect of suitable and eligible officers and who can be spared immediately in the event of selection may be sent through proper channel to:- The Under Secretary (Estt.IV), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Room No. 435 (B), Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi - 110 001 and by email at **use4-mowr@nic.in** & **soe4-mowr@nic.in**, within a period of 45 days from the date of issue/ publishing of this Advertisement in the Employment News.
4. **Advance copies of application not forwarded through proper channel or application received after the prescribed period or not accompanied with the requisite information/documents are liable to be rejected.**

(Sameer Kumar Munda)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel: 011-23716252
Email: use4-mowr@nic.in

[**Note:** The English version shall always prevail in case or any discrepancy or inconsistency between English version and its Hindi translation.]

संख्या: A. 12023/7/2019-E-IV
भारत सरकार
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण विभाग
*****
रिक्ति सूचना

कावेरी जल प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण का गठन भारत सरकार द्वारा अंतर-राज्यीय नदी जल विवाद (ISRWD) अधिनियम, 1956 की धारा 6A के प्रावधानों के अंतर्गत दिनांक 01.06.2018 की अधिसूचना संख्या S.O. 2236 (E) के माध्यम से किया गया है, ताकि माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा दिनांक 16.02.2018 के आदेश में संशोधित कावेरी जल विवाद न्यायाधिकरण के निर्णय को प्रभावी बनाया जा सके।

2. कावेरी जल प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (CWMA) में अध्यक्ष के पद को प्रतिनियुक्ति (अल्पकालिक संविदा सहित)/ पुनर्नियोजन के आधार पर भरने हेतु वेतन मैट्रिक्स के स्तर–17 (₹2,25,000/- नियत) में पात्र एवं उपयुक्त अधिकारियों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।
3. पदों का विवरण, पालता शर्तें आदि **jalshakti-dowr.gov.in** तथा **dopt.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध हैं। पात्र एवं उपयुक्त अधिकारी, जिन्हें चयन की स्थिति में तत्काल कार्यमुक्त किया जा सकता हो, अपने आवेदन (तीन प्रतियों में), पूर्ण रूप से भरे हुए, उचित माध्यम से निम्न पते पर प्रेषित करें: अवर सचिव (स्थापना-IV), जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण विभाग, जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, कक्ष संख्या 435 (B), श्रम शक्ति भवन, रफी मार्ग, नई दिल्ली – 110001 साथ ही ईमेल द्वारा **use4-mowr@nic.in** एवं **soe4-mowr@nic.in** पर भी भेजें। आवेदन इस विज्ञापन के रोजगार समाचार में प्रकाशन/जारी होने की तिथि से 45 दिनों के भीतर प्राप्त हो जाना चाहिए।
4. उचित माध्यम से आवेदन की अग्रिम प्रतियां न भेजने या निर्धारित अवधि के बाद प्राप्त होने या अपेक्षित सूचना/दस्तावेजों के बिना आवेदन को अस्वीकार कर दिया जाएगा।

(समीर कुमार मुंडा)
अवर सचिव, भारत सरकार
दूरभाष संख्या: 011-23716252
ईमेल: use4-mowr@nic.in

[नोट: अंग्रेजी संस्करण एवं उसके हिंदी अनुवाद के बीच किसी भी प्रकार की विसंगति या असंगति की स्थिति में अंग्रेजी संस्करण ही मान्य होगा]

भारत सरकार/GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, / अंतरिक्ष विभाग/ DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/ VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम/ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं./ Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537 / 4545)

दिनांक/Date : 19.06.2026

ई–निविदा की अवधि बढ़ाना / EXTENSION OF E-TENDER

70 एकड, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में एनजीएलवी कार्यालय के लिए एसटीएस भवन (चौथी मंज़िल) का उर्द्धाधर विस्तार (सिविल तथा विद्युत कार्य) / Vertical Extension of STS Building (Fourth Floor) for NGLV Office at 70 Acres, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & Electrical works) / NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/07/2026-27 Dt. 18.05.2026 , (पी.ए.सी PAC: रु./ **Rs. 543.06** लाख/ Lakhs)

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading : दिनांक 01.07.2026 को 23:00 बजे तक बढ़ाए गए/Extended upto 23:00 hrs. on 01.07.2026

इच्छुक निविदाकार ब्यौरों के लिए www.tenderwizard.in/isro या www.isro.gov.in देखें। / Interested tenderers may visit www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in for details.

प्रधान, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी
Head, CMG, VSSC

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI

No : EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS/2026-27/1098 Date : 18/06/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-3 (Through E-procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of work: Construction of Four Class Rooms and Others to Govt Higher Primary School at Dandgund Village in Chittapur Taluka Dise Code 29040402601 under KKRDB Indent No.24679/Call-3, 2) Head of account: K.K.R.D.B, 3) Amount put to tender: **Rs. 55,34,692.38**, 4) Class of Contractor: Class-III and Above, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: **17-06-2026 to 29-06-2026 upto 4.00 pm**, 6) Tender Form Fee: As per KPPP Norms, 7) E.M.D. Fee: Rs. 1,11,000.00, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: **17-06-2026 to 29-06-2026 upto 4.00 pm**, 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: **30-06-2026 After 4.00 pm,** 10) Financial Bid opening Date: **02-07-2026 After 11.00 am**, 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 12) Website Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/232/KSMC&A/2026-27 **Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public are hereby notified that my client is proposing to purchase the property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder from its owners **Srinatha.B.K, Eshwarappa.C, Manjunatha.N, Chandrashekar.G.S, Srinivasa, G.Munikrishnappa, Srinivasa.M, Venkatachalapathi, Shankarappa B.V.** and negotiations are in progress. Meanwhile, I am instructed to carry out the title due diligence of the Schedule Property and I have undertaken scrutiny of the documents to ascertain marketable title and lawful possession of the owners and person claiming through them. As part of the due diligence report, this public notice is issued to ascertain if there are any persons rights in the Schedule Property, any financial institution/s, GPA holder/s, entity/s, company/s, firm/s or body corporate/s claiming any right, title, claim interest or lien over the Schedule Property or any portion thereof and/ or opposing sale or development of the Schedule Property by my client are hereby called upon to file their objections or claims, if any, with supporting authenticated documents, justifying such claims to the undersigned within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of publication hereof for scrutiny and consideration. If no objections/ claims are received as above within the stipulated period, my client will proceed with the completion of the proposed transaction as if there are no objections, if any, that are deemed to have been waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural dry land property situated at **Mustur Village Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk and District.**

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Extent	East	West	North	South
1	156/1	24 Guntas	Sy.No.154	Sy.No.156/2	Sy.No.153	Sy.No.155/1
2	148/1A	26 Guntas	Sy.No.147 & 149	Sy.No.137/3	Sy.No.141	Sy.No.148/1B
3	147	27 Guntas	Sy.No.151	Sy.No.148/1B	Sy.No.148/1	Sy.No.150
4	155/1	10 Gunta	Sy.No.91	Sy.No.158	Sy.No.156	Sy.No.155/2
5	150	2 Acres 13 Guntas	Sy.No.157	Sy.No.149	Sy.No.147	Sy.No.161
6	105/2	13 Guntas	Sy.No.108	Sy.No.104&103	Sy.No.02&101	Sy.No.104&115
7	157/2	18 Guntas	Sy.No.147 & 149	Sy.No.137/3	Sy.No.141	Sy.No.148/1B
8	156/2	18 Guntas	Sy.No.156/1	Sy.No.156/3	Sy.No.154 & 153	Sy.No.155/1&158
9	156/3	6 Guntas	Sy No.156/2	Sy No.157/3	Sy No.151	Sy No.158/3
10	157/3	12 Guntas	Sy No.156/3	Sy No.157/2	Sy No.157/1	Sy No.158
11	110/1	22 Guntas	Sy No.137	Sy No.109	Sy No.139/2	Sy No.110/6&132
12	98/4	8 Guntas	Sy No.139/2	Sy No.99/1,2,3	Sy No.98/3	Sy No.109&110/1

PRASHANTH .K.S
ADVOCATE AND LEGAL CONSULTANT
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Chikkaballapura Date : 20-06-2026

WASHINGTON

U.S. strike on alleged drug boat kills 3 in the eastern Pacific Ocean

AFP

The U.S. military attacked a boat accused of smuggling drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean on Thursday, killing three persons. The latest attack brings the number of people who have been killed in boat strikes by the U.S. military to at least 211 since the Trump administration began targeting those it calls "narcoterrorists". AP

BOGOTA

Colombia investigates ex-President Uribe over paramilitary massacres

REUTERS

The Colombian prosecutor's office said on Thursday it had launched a probe into influential former President Alvaro Uribe over his alleged links to massacres by paramilitary groups during the worst years of the country's armed conflict. He is accused of involvement in massacres by paramilitaries in 1996 and 1997. AFP

CARACAS

Venezuela govt., Opposition hold talks on 'democratic transition'

REUTERS

Members of Venezuela's interim government and Opposition representatives met in Caracas on Thursday to discuss a roadmap for democratic transition, the U.S. State Department said. Opposition figure Dinorah Figuera returned after eight years abroad for talks with National Assembly chief Jorge Rodriguez. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. Vice-President Vance delays trip to Switzerland for Iran talks

REUTERS

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance will not travel to Switzerland as scheduled for talks on Friday following up on the deal to end the war with Iran, according to the White House. "The logistics of these negotiations have never been simple or predictable. As of now the V-P is not departing tonight," a White House spokesperson said. AFP

Israel and Hezbollah 'agree to halt fighting'; U.S.-Iran talks uncertain

Israel carried out attacks soon after officials announced a ceasefire mediated by Qatar, U.S. and Iran, reports media; Israel's Defence Minister Katz says IDF would remain in southern Lebanon and would never allow people to return to their homes

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group agreed on Friday to halt the heavy fighting in southern Lebanon that had threatened to unravel an interim agreement between the United States and Iran to end their war, officials said. Neither Israel nor Hezbollah immediately confirmed the truce.

It came after a heavy exchange of fire killed 47 people and wounded 97 others in Lebanon and four Israeli soldiers.

Hezbollah and Israel went to war shortly after the outbreak of the wider conflict, with Hezbollah firing rockets and drones at civilian communities in northern Israel and Israel seizing large swaths of southern Lebanon.

Laid to ruin: Rubble from buildings destroyed in Israeli strikes in the southern port city of Tyre, Lebanon on Friday. AP

The interim agreement to end the Iran war has already reopened the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran effectively closed, cutting the global economy off from supplies of oil. The deal would also relaunch talks on Iran's nuclear programme.

But the accord already faces threats, chiefly from Lebanon, with the fighting there leading to a delay in the start of talks planned for Friday in Switzerland.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to keep Israeli forces in southern Lebanon until the threat is eliminated. Hezbollah has refused to halt its attacks unless Israel commits to withdrawing from Lebanon, which Iran says is also a condition of the deal.

Hours after officials told news organisations about the truce, Israeli artillery fire could still be heard from northern Israel along the Lebanese border, and a large explosion was seen erupting inside Lebanon, according to a pressperson in northern Israel.

Word of the attempt to halt the fighting came from two regional officials and a U.S. official. The effort was mediated by Qatar, the U.S. and Iran, the regional officials said.

Earlier on Friday, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said Israeli forces would remain in southern Lebanon "from the Mediterranean coast to the heights of Beaufort".

"The 200,000 residents who lived in the security zone are not returning. None of them are returning," Mr. Katz said.

Russian strikes on Ukraine kill three: Kyiv

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russia renewed its strikes on Ukraine on Friday, killing three persons including an eight-year-old girl, Ukrainian officials said.

The strikes come a day after Ukraine launched its biggest-ever drone attack on Moscow, killing a different eight-year-old girl and sparking an inferno at a major oil refinery, according to Russian officials.

The Kremlin said on Friday it would "continue" striking Ukraine following that attack.

Separate Russian attacks on Ukraine's southern Odesa region killed one person, while strikes on the eastern city of Kramatorsk killed one other, according to authorities on Friday.

Starmer says he won't step down after Burnham's victory

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Keir Starmer

The U.K.' s Prime Minister, Keir Starmer has said he would not leave his position as his grip on No. 10 Downing Street weakened significantly on Friday morning as outgoing Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, his strongest challenger, comfortably won the Makerfield byelection, bringing him back to Parliament.

Mr. Burnham, a former Minister in Gordon Brown's government, said it was the "final chance" for Labour to change, as he addressed supporters following the results.

The former Mayor stands left of Starmer in the Labour political spectrum. He won 55% or 24,927 votes with the nativist party Reform UK winning 34.5% of the vote. The party has eaten into Labour's vote and almost fully displaced the Conservatives who won 2.2%. This has especially been true in places like Makerfield, a mostly suburban, white constituency in the North West of England with industrial roots. However, Reform itself has a challenger from its right – Restore, which won 6.8% of the vote.

Mr. Burnham acknowledged supporters of the parties on the left as well as the right who may have voted for him. "It is a chance now... to build a new politics based on unity and hope, turning away from the path that takes us to a divided, dark politics of the kind we see in the U.S.," he said on Friday.

The Prime Minister has said he will fight any contest to oust him from No.10 Downing Street.

"I've said repeatedly I'm not going to walk away from that," said Mr. Starmer, on Friday. He reiterated his position that it was not a good idea to hold a leadership contest which, he said, would cause "chaos" for Labour and the country.

More than 20% or 81 Labour MPs – the number required to trigger a new contest – have said they do not back Mr. Starmer but none of them have clearly coalesced behind another candidate. However, that was before Mr. Burnham's victory. The other prominent contender for No.10 is Mr. Starmer's former Health Secretary Wes Streeting.

Labour leaders began urging Mr. Starmer to hand over power or speed up the internal party contest as per a report in the *Guardian*.

Burnham ally and former lawmaker Louise Haigh, told the BBC that she hoped Mr. Starmer and Mr. Burnham could find "a managed way forward".

A change in leadership could occur in a matter of days but with Mr. Starmer wanting to fight it out, a internal party contest is more likely to occur over the coming months.

'All of Lebanon must burn', says Israeli Minister Ben Gvir

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Far-right Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir said on Friday that "all of Lebanon must burn" after Israel's military announced the deaths of four soldiers there.

The Israeli losses were the first to be announced since a U.S.-Iran deal was signed to end the West Asia war.

"With all due respect to the Americans, Israel must make it clear to the entire world that the blood of our sons and the security of our citizens are not up for bargaining. All of Lebanon must burn," Mr. Ben Gvir said in a statement.

"For every tear shed by an Israeli mother, a thousand Lebanese mothers must weep," he added.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said Israel must "go wild. Eradicate. Defeat terrorism". "We must let fire speak... and open the gates of hell," he added, without explicitly mentioning Lebanon.

Italy's top diplomat cancels U.S. trip as Meloni slams Trump's claim on photo-op

Associated Press
ROME

The Italian government closed ranks on Friday to slam U.S. President Donald Trump over his claim that Premier Giorgia Meloni had "begged" for a photo with him during the recent G7 summit, a pushback that suggested the long-time U.S. ally had had enough of Mr. Trump's boasting.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani abruptly cancelled a planned trip to the United States this weekend, calling Mr. Trump's claims "serious and offensive" toward Ms. Meloni and all of Italy.

Ms. Meloni for her part posted a video calling Mr. Trump's claims "completely fabricated" and expressing astonishment that he would invent such things about an ally. She concluded: "Italy and I do not beg."

Mr. Trump had made the comments in an interview broadcast on Friday morning on the *La7* network. The *La7* correspondent had asked Mr. Trump about Ukraine, but Mr. Trump raised Ms. Meloni and the conversation turned to their meeting during the just-concluded G7 meeting in Evian-les-Bains, France. Ms. Meloni and Mr. Trump were filmed speaking at several moments. According to *La7*, Mr. Trump said Ms. Meloni had "begged" him for a photo-op. Mr. Trump said he wasn't obliged to do it but that he felt sorry for her and agreed, *La7* said. The broadcaster has a dubbed version of the conversation online, not the original English audio.

Giorgia Meloni

In her video, Ms. Meloni said she was responding to Mr. Trump's claims because "certain things deserve an immediate response".

The White House did not return an immediate request for comment on Ms. Meloni's remarks.

Sport

Clark shines the brightest after darkness-halted opening round

GOLF

Agence France-Presse
SOUTHAMPTON

Wyndham Clark finished his darkness-halted first round of the 126th US Open with two pars on Friday morning, completing a six-under 64 to hold a two-stroke lead at windy Shinnecock.

The 32-year-old American, who won the 2023 US Open at Los Angeles Country Club, was among 50 players who did not conclude their first rounds on Thursday due to a two-hour morning fog delay, but Friday skies were clear at the restart.

Clark set the lowest first-round score in a US Open at Shinnecock, breaking the old mark of 66 by Angel Cabrera, Shigeki Maruyama and Jay Haas in 2004 and Nick Price in 1995.

Well begun: Clark completed a six-under 64 to hold a two-stroke advantage. GETTY IMAGES

Clark owned a four-stroke overnight lead through 16 holes but compatriot Dustin Johnson, a two-time Major winner, birdied the par-three seventh and par-four ninth to trim his playing partner's edge in half.

Johnson sank a three-foot birdie putt at the seventh and a 10-footer for birdie at the ninth to complete a 66 and grab second.

Sharing third were past US Open winners Matt Fitzpatrick of England and American Gary Woodland on 67. Fitzpatrick opened Friday with an 11-foot birdie putt at the eighth and parred the ninth while Woodland birdied the eighth from just inside 15 feet and parred the ninth.

A pack four adrift that completed two-under 68s on Thursday included amateur Ryder Cowan and fellow Americans Max McGreevy and Sam Stevens.

Two-time Major winner Jon Rahm of Spain was two-under with three holes remaining.

Six-time Major winner Rory McIlroy was in a pack on 69 that included American Brian Harman and Sweden's Ludvig Aberg among others.

Singapore club FC Jurong's new head coach Jaswinder keen to collaborate with India

FOOTBALL

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Jaswinder Singh, a football coach of Indian-origin, was recently appointed as the head coach of FC Jurong, one of Singapore's most successful clubs.

The Singaporean has been part of the club's youth teams since 2020 and has steadily risen through the ranks. In a chat with *The Hindu*, the 38-year-old spoke about his Indian connection and said that both countries can learn from each other to develop the sport.

"I have been following Indian football. Over the past decade, I believe there have been some positives, such as India cracking the top 100 in the world ranking, Bengaluru's AFC Cup run, as well as hosting the U17 World Cup, to just to name a few," said Jaswinder, who will take over at FC Jurong, which is part-owned by Indian firm SkaSports, from the 2026-27 season.

"India is definitely a country with great sporting potential and has made some great strides in the last decade. But I believe consistency is the key factor everyone is looking for. I would definitely be interested in collaborating should something come up in the near future," he added.

On the possible areas of cooperation, Jaswinder explained, "I think both countries have vast expertise that can be exchanged that could help either side improve. For example, the use of technology in football."

Jaswinder.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Similarly, he felt there were lessons to be learned from India's diverse culture. "I think the idea of bringing together players from different States, cultures and spoken languages and getting these players to fight for a common cause is something we can always improve on despite our relatively small size as a country," he said.

Regarding his personal ties to India, Jaswinder – whose grandparents were from the Tarn Taran district in Punjab – revealed that he keeps visiting the country and is proud of his roots.

"As a person of Sikh heritage, I maintain a strong connection to my cultural and spiritual roots by regularly visiting Amritsar and the Golden Temple.

"These visits allow me to stay connected to my traditions, values, and community, while also providing an opportunity for reflection and personal growth," he said.

CLINICAL SHOW

Super subs fire Switzerland past Bosnia and close in on last 32 spot

AP

Super subs Johan Manzambi and Ruben Vargas fired Switzerland to a 4-1 win over 10-man Bosnia-Herzegovina in a late rush of goals in Los Angeles on Thursday. The result gave the Swiss a strong chance of reaching the FIFA World Cup 2026 knockout round as one of the top two teams in Group B.

DOMINANT DISPLAY

Six-star Canada hammers Qatar into submission

AP

Jonathan David scored three goals and Canada won its first World Cup match while all but securing a spot in the knockout round with a 6-0 victory over Qatar on Thursday. Qatar was reduced to nine players because of red cards in the chaotic match. Canada's Ismael Kone was stretched off with a serious injury to his lower left leg.

TWO IN A ROW

Alleyne's heroics hand West Indies thrilling victory over Scotland

GETTY IMAGES

Aaliyah Alleyne's three-wicket burst helped West Indies edge Scotland by seven runs to secure a second straight win at the Women's T20 WC in Leeds on Thursday. **The scores:** West Indies 153/6 in 20 overs (Taylor 47 n.o.) bt Scotland 146 in 20 overs (Carter 59, Alleyne 3/11, Matthews 3/19). **Toss:** Scotland; **PoM:** Taylor.

IN AND OUT

Prema replaces injured Shreyanka in India's T20 World Cup squad

GETTY IMAGES

Shreyanka Patil, who injured her ankle during India's T20 Women's World Cup match against the Netherlands, will take no further part and has been replaced by leg-spinner Prema Rawat *(in pic)*. The Event Technical Committee of the World Cup approved the replacement on Thursday night.

Mexico edges Korea, punches ticket to the knockout round

The co-host becomes the first to do so after Romo pounces on an error from goalkeeper Kim to fire his side ahead; *El Tri* stopper Rangel makes a superb double save in the dying minutes

FIFA WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
GUADALAJARA

Co-host Mexico became the first team to reach the knockout rounds of the World Cup with a 1-0 win over South Korea at a delirious Guadalajara Stadium on Thursday.

After a dreary first period, Luis Romo's goal just after half-time thanks to a goalkeeping error put Mexico through as Group A winner with a match to go.

Mexico stopper Raul Rangel made a superb double save in the dying minutes to preserve its lead.

Finishing top keeps Mexico at home in the last 32 with a game against a third-placed team in Mexico City.

"It's really difficult to deal with the emotions," coach Javier Aguirre said of the challenges going into the game.

He reserved special praise for Rangel and the supporters in Guadalajara.

"His save was just amazing," said Aguirre. "It was quite a tactical match, and hard to digest for the fans, but they were outstanding."

South Korea is second on three points, with the Czech Republic and South Africa also still alive on one.

Hong Myung-bo's side faces South Africa next and is still in a good position to advance.

Costly mistake: Romo lashes in Mexico's winner after 'keeper Kim spills the ball into his path. AFP

THE RESULTS

Group A: Mexico 1 (Romo 50) bt South Korea 0.
Group B: Switzerland 4 (Manzambi 74, 90, Vargas 84, Xhaka 90+7) bt Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (Mahmic 90+3).
Canada 6 (Larin 16, David 29, 45+3, 90+2, Saliba 64, Manai 75-og) bt Qatar 0.

Stat attack

1 David becomes the first Canadian man to score multiple goals (two or more) in a World Cup game

1 Canada is the first nation outside of Europe and South America to net more than five goals in one World Cup match

1 As many as five goals were scored after the 70th minute in the Switzerland-Bosnia & Herzegovina contest, a first in the football showpiece

2 Xhaka is the second Swiss player to score in three World Cups (2014, 2018, 2026) after Shaqiri (2014, 2018, 2022)

5.07 Sadikel's goal in the sixth minute is the quickest of this edition

20y 247d Manzambi has become the youngest substitute to score more than one goal in a World Cup encounter

24 Mexico has topped its group after a 24-year gap

96 David ends a 96-year wait for a CONCACAF player to perform a hat-trick at the World Cup after Patenaude (USA vs. Paraguay, 1930)

Compiled by **ANIRUDH VELAMURI**

Hydration break appears to be affecting the outcome of contests

Ayon Sengupta
ATLANTA

The hydration break – arriving at the 22nd minute mark of each half – was introduced by FIFA ahead of the 2026 World Cup to protect players from the overbearing heat in venues across North America. One week into the tournament, it appears to be doing more than helping the players cool down. Across the first 28 games of the tournament, players have spent a combined 168 minutes on these water breaks, listening to coaches and catching their breath. The 56 hydration breaks have consumed close to three hours of match time.

What was expected to be just a welfare measure appears to be also influencing the course of matches.

As many as 53 of the 89 goals registered at the tournament so far have arrived after the hydration breaks with 20 of them scored within 10 minutes of the restart. Nine of those 20 goals have come minutes after the first cooling pause, while another 11 have arrived following the second break.

In Norway's 4-1 win over Iraq, Erling Haaland scored his team's opener minutes after the first hydration break, before Leo Ostigard added the team's third after the second-half pause.

Turning point: Yakin feels that the tactical changes after the second break helped Switzerland. REUTERS

Vinicius Junior equalised for Brazil against Morocco within 10 minutes after the players had returned to the field in the hot and humid conditions of the New York New Jersey Stadium.

The trend has continued elsewhere. The United States scored its second goal against Paraguay in the 31st minute, soon after the first break, while Sweden's second goal against Tunisia arrived in the 30th minute. Switzerland opened its account against Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 74th minute of its Group B match, before scoring another three to secure a 4-1 victory.

Whether these breaks are responsible for the results will be open to debate. But coaches have quickly recognised the tactical possibilities they offer.

"It was important that after the second hydration break, we would change a few things, because then the opponent can't react immediately," Switzerland coach Murat Yakin said after the Bosnia and Herzegovina match. "Maybe that was the edge we had".

The breaks are also creating a lucrative commercial opportunity for the broadcasters. FIFA's rules effectively provide broadcasters with two minutes and 10 seconds of advertising time during each drink stoppage, adding more than four minutes of commercial inventory per match. **Note:** *Stats till the Mexico-South Korea match.*

Sunday's matches

GROUP E
Germany vs. **Ivory Coast,** 1.30 a.m.
Ecuador vs. **Curacao,** 5.30 a.m.
GROUP F
Tunisia vs. **Japan,** 9.30 a.m.
GROUP H
Spain vs. **Saudi Arabia,** 9.30 p.m.

The day and time(s) pertain to India

Sri Lanka-A to meet India-A in the final

TRI-SERIES

Shayan Acharya
DAMBULLA

The last time Sri Lanka-A and India-A met in the trination tournament, tempers flared, emotions spilled over and the result was settled only after a dramatic Super Over.

But with Sunday's final looming, Sri Lanka-A captain Sahan Arachchige wants his side to focus on the trophy.

The host rode on Avishka Fernando's century and Dulaj Samuditha's five-wicket haul to beat Afghanistan-A by 103 runs on Friday and booked a place in the summit clash.

Arachchige insisted there would be no extra motivation stemming from the heated clash against India-A. "The boys are doing well and we're looking forward to having a great match," Arachchige told *The Hindu* on Friday.

The scores: Sri Lanka-A 322/8 in 50 overs (Niroshan Dickwella 66, Avishka Fernando 110, Nuwanidu Fernando 45, Faridoon Dawoodzai 4/60) bt Afghanistan-A 219 in 42.5 overs (Hassan Eishakhil 74, Farmanullah 43, Dulaj Samuditha 5/25).
Toss: Afghanistan-A; **PoM:** Fernando.

Shree Charani — a great find for the Women in Blue

T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LEEDS

Spinners come and go in Indian women's cricket these days. Like the singers in reality shows.

There has been one magnificent exception, though. One who has become an integral part of the Indian attack in no time.

Shree Charani has taken to international cricket like a bird to the sky. She has taken flight in style. She keeps soaring high. The Women in Blue could not have asked for more.

They have a champion bowler who could be entrusted with the ball at any stage in any condition.

The girl from Kadapa keeps taking wickets. She took three against Pakistan in India's opening match in the Women's T20 World Cup at Edgbaston. Three days later, she claimed four against the Netherlands.

Shree Charani. GETTY IMAGES

On her T20I debut, a year ago at Nottingham here in England, the left-arm spinner had taken four for 12. Among her victims were Nat Sciver-Brunt and Alice Capsey. Two months earlier, she had scalped two on her ODI debut against Sri Lanka at Colombo. She also played a big role in India's ODI World Cup triumph at home last year. She already has picked 62 international wickets and is ranked No. 2 in the ICC ranking for T20I bowlers. She is breathing down Linsey Smith's neck.

Shree Charani has truly been a great find. She has grown in stature in little time.

She has a fine, complete action. She can vary her pace, and has a good loop. She has admirable control, as well. Little wonder, she has earned high praise from R. Ashwin.

India's spin attack suffered a setback when Shreyanka Patil injured her ankle during the match against the Netherlands and has since been ruled out of the rest of the World Cup. Shree Charani would not mind the additional responsibility.

She could get even better, for she is just 21.

Today's matches

Southampton, 3 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Australia | Netherlands
First Meeting

Southampton, 7 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 20
Pakistan 16 | Bangladesh 4

Leeds, 11 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 1
England 1 | Scotland 0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Jane and Jill — the pioneers who created a rich legacy

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LEEDS

The scoreboard said: Jane Powell and Jill Powell 63 not out.

Jane smiles at the memory. The twins were part of an England side that toured India.

"The scorer could not tell us apart, so he added our runs together and bracketed us together," Jane tells *The Hindu* during the T20 Women's World Cup match between the West Indies and Scotland at Headingley on Thursday.

Jill adds it was difficult for most people to identify them correctly. "So I will tell them, I am the pretty one, and Jane is the intelligent one," smiles Jill, and shows an old black-and-white photograph in which she is wearing a white skirt (women's teams from countries like England and Australia used to be dressed thus those days).

Jane has had a more distinguished career in cricket. She led England in a cricket World Cup final, scored a Test century and was in 2023 elected as the first female president of Yorkshire County Cricket Club. She also played hockey for Great Britain. "I could have played at the Moscow Olympics, but could not because of the boycott," she says.

Trailblazers: Jill and Jane are delighted with the growth of women's cricket. P.K. AJITH KUMAR

She is happy that women's cricket is finally getting its due. "When we played Australia in the final of the 1988 World Cup, only 3,000 people had turned up, when the Melbourne Cricket Ground's capacity was 90,000," says Jane.

In 2020 at the same venue, more than 86,000 fans watched Australia play India in the final of the Women's T20 World Cup. A reflection of the distance women's cricket has travelled.

"It is great that there is now good money in women's cricket," says Jill. "Back in our day, it was very difficult for us. The Indian girls were at least lucky that they had jobs."

Both the twins have enjoyed their time in India. "I will never forget a meeting we had with the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi," says Jane.

"And I remember batting for 73 minutes in the second innings - making seven not out - to save a match at Ahmedabad.

"India had excellent bowlers those days, like Shubhangi Kulkarni, who was such a difficult leg-spinner to tackle. India also had good seamers like Susan Ittichería."

It is ironic that women play fewer Tests now. "We need more Tests for women," says Jane.

"We are all looking forward to the England-India Test at Lord's next month after the World Cup final." That is the first-ever women's Test at the home of cricket.

Neeraj fourth in Doha

Sports Bureau

India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra marked his return to action with a fourth-place finish at the Doha leg of the Diamond League on Friday.

Neeraj managed a best of 85.69m in his third effort. Out of the five throws, he fouled two.

Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage, the current World leader, won the event with a best of 88.68. He had produced a remarkable 92.62 throw at the Rome leg. Anderson Peters of Granada finished second (86.38) while the USA's Curtis Thompson (85.99) ended third.

Nicholls puts Kiwis on top

Associated Press
LONDON

Henry Nicholls smacked an unbeaten ton against England to help boost New Zealand's lead to 352 on day three of the second Test at the Oval on Friday.

The scores: New Zealand 391 & 252/3 in 56 overs (Henry Nicholls 119 batting, Rachin Ravindra 76) vs. England 291 in 84 overs (Emilio Gay 53, Joe Root 46, Matthew Fischer 50 n.o., Matt Henry 5/80).

INBRIEF

India finishes runner-up in World Team snooker c'ship

India's title hopes came unstuck as it lost 2-3 to host China 'A' in the final of the World Team snooker championship in Guangdong on Friday.

The result (final): China 'A' bt India 3-2 (Li Chengjie lost to Pankaj Advani 19-54; Xu Jiarui bt Aditya Mehta 66-34; Xu & Pan Yiming bt Advani & Mehta 79-0; Xu lost to Advani 4-82; Li bt Mehta 68-32).

Macau Open: Ashmita storms into semifinals, Anmol out

Ashmita Chaliha defeated Korea's Kim Min Sun to enter the women's singles semifinals, but compatriot Anmol Kharb bowed out after a quarterfinal defeat at the Macau Open Super 300 tournament on Friday.

The results: Ashmita Chaliha bt Kim Min Sun 21-16, 21-18; Han Qian Xi bt Anmol Kharb 13-21, 21-15, 21-13.

Prachi leads the way as India puts up a good show

Prachi beat Paris Olympics bronze medallist Shih Yi Wu of Taiwan 4-1 as India confirmed multiple medals following a strong quarterfinal showing at the World Boxing Cup 2026 (Stage 2) on Friday.

The results (quarterfinals): Women: 51kg: Minakshi bt Alua Balkibekova (Kaz) 5-0; **57kg:** Prachi bt Shih Yi Wu (Tpe) 4-1; **65kg:** Kinga Krowka (Pol) bt Saneh 5-0.
Men: 55kg: Nikhil bt Amin Mammadzada (Aze) 5-0; **70kg:** Deepak bt Nabi Isgandarov (Aze) 5-0.

LIVE TELECAST

FIFA World Cup: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 8.30 a.m. 10.30 p.m. 1.30 & 5.30 a.m. (Sunday)
India vs. Afghanistan: 3rd ODI, Star Sports 2 & JioHotstar, 1.30 p.m.
ENG vs. NZ: 2nd Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
Maharaja T20 Trophy: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 2 & 7 p.m.
Women's T20 WC: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3, 7 & 11 p.m.

Dominant India eyes series sweep against Afghanistan

The home team will expect veteran Rohit to notch up a big score; Shreyas could also benefit from some time in the middle; the visitor seeks an improved performance at Chepauk

AFGHANISTAN IN INDIA

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

The master's voice: Gurnoor is all ears as Rohit offers pearls of wisdom ahead of the final ODI. R. RAGU

At Chepauk, time acquires the consistency of tamarind - thick, tart, and impossible to rush. The MCC clock watches a day-night ODI ripen with magisterial indifference. Beneath the sail-like canopy roofs, the afternoon heat presses down with bureaucratic efficiency. Vendors continue their circuits, conversations drift through the stands, and the sea air arrives from the Marina. Just beyond the stands, suburban trains rattle past on concrete stilts, their passengers - spectral voyeurs - stealing glimpses of the sunlit turf. By the time the shadows lengthen across the outfield, the match no longer feels like something being watched. It feels like a day being collectively inhabited.

On Saturday, the crowd that settles into Chepauk's long afternoon would expect the Indian juggernaut to complete a 3-0 sweep of Afghanistan in the third and final ODI. At Lucknow, players, and even the on-field umpire Richard Illingworth, reached for cooling towels as heat and humidity combined into an unforgiving working environment. Chepauk offers familiarity, but little relief.

India has batted as if the weather were someone else's problem. Shubman Gill's unbeaten 84 and 154 have reinforced his growing centrality to India's 2027 World Cup plans. Ishan Kishan's 125 was perhaps equally valuable, restoring him to the ODI conversation while simultaneously strengthening India's wicketkeeping reserves. K.L. Rahul's late flourish at Dharamsala added to the sense of batting abundance.

The bowling, too, has offered encouragement. Gurnoor Brar, Harsh Dubey, Arshdeep Singh, and Prince Yadav have all contributed meaningfully. Harshit Rana's return from a long injury layoff has only expanded India's options.

For a team seeking to broaden its resources without compromising results, the series has come close to an ideal outcome.

There is one thing the crowd would want. Runs from Rohit Sharma. He remains one of India's ODI giants. Yet, every innings now carries a second scorecard, invisible but unavoidable, on which selectors, supporters, and time itself keep count. His innings are no longer being watched solely for their runs. They are being watched for evidence of his remainingness.

Shreyas Iyer, too, could benefit from time in the middle.

India's larger objectives are unlikely to change. The management would gladly accept another evening of experimentation disguised as dominance. If someone else puts a hand up, so much the better.

There are still things to tidy up. At Lucknow, 450 briefly appeared imaginable before the Afghan spinners dragged the innings back to earth, claiming seven wickets for 62 runs in the last 10 overs. They demonstrated that even overwhelming afternoons can contain pockets of resistance.

Afghanistan would search for more of those pockets and broader contributions with the bat.

The teams (from): India: Shubman Gill (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, Shreyas Iyer (Vice-capt.), K.L. Rahul (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Nitish Kumar, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Prince Yadav, Gurnoor Brar, Harsh Dubey, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Harshit Rana.

Afghanistan: Hashmatullah Shahidi (Capt.), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Ibrahim Zadran, Sediqullah Atal, Rahmat Shah, Ikram Alikhil (wk), Mohammad Nabi, Azmatullah Omarzai, Rashid Khan, Nangeyalia Kharote, AM Ghazanfar, Ziaur Rahman Sharifi, Fareed Malikzai, Bilal Sami, Mohammad Saleem, and Darwish Rasooli.

Match starts at 1.30 p.m.

Raring to go: Rookie pacer Prince and all-rounder Nitish Kumar will be eager to make it count. R. RAGU

'To see the young guys come in and bowl was a wow moment'

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

India, having clinched the ODI series against Afghanistan with victories in the first two outings in Dharamshala and Lucknow, is set to try out the bench strength in the third and final game here on Saturday.

Speaking ahead of the match, assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate was full of praise for the young crop of Indian fast bowlers heading into next year's ODI World Cup.

"When we got together in Chandigarh to see those young guys come in and bowl, it was literally like a wow moment. The way Gurnoor (Brar) has bowled in his first two games, and seeing a young Indian pacer hit 147-148 kph, is exciting," said ten Doeschate.

"For the next 15 months, it's purely around that (ODI World Cup). To amalgamate the talent with the guys coming through and get them up to speed, really, really quickly, is going to be the challenge for this group."

On Kuldeep Yadav's form, the former Dutch all-rounder backed the left-arm wrist-spinner to come good soon. "The way the game is evolving and the way guys go after the spin, the onus is back on the spinner to almost reinvent himself from time to time. Having Sairaj (Bahutule) in now, to work with the spinners on a lot of tactical things, game planning and trying to come up with new ideas, I think Kuldeep is travelling nicely, so no concerns about him," he added.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan fielding coach John Mooney conceded that the current series has exposed the gulf between the two sides.

"The takeaway from the series is that skills-wise, they have a lot to do to catch up with this Indian team. I believe our players have fantastic skills as well. But the best players stick to the basics. They do the basics over and over and over and over, and I feel that that's an area where our players could improve," said Mooney.

Manika rails against Asiad exclusion

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

India's leading women's paddler Manika Batra has sought the intervention of the Sports Ministry and the Indian Olympic Association after being omitted from the country's table tennis squad for the Asian Games.

In a strongly worded statement issued on Thursday, hours after the squad was announced, the 2018 Asian Games mixed doubled bronze medallist said her exclusion was "deeply disheartening, not only because of the outcome, but because of the manner in which the selection criteria appear to have been interpreted and applied."

Blasters vs Mystics clash to open Maharaja Trophy

Sports Bureau

The fifth season of the DACS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 gets underway with a double header at the S.D.N.R. Wadiyar Stadium in Mysuru on Saturday.

The opening fixture, scheduled for 2 p.m., sees Shubhang Hegde's Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters take on Manish Pandey's Gulbarga Mystics.

The Blasters's squad includes the likes of K.L. Shrijith, Pravin Dubey and Rohan Patil.

The Mystics features Macneil Noronha, M. Kranthi Kumar and B.R. Sharath.

The evening clash, commencing at 7.30 p.m., pits tournament newcomer Shivamogga Yodhas, led by R. Smaran, against defending champion Mysore Warriors. The Warriors are captained by Karnataka pacer V. Vyshak.

Live telecast
All matches will be broadcast live on Sony Sports TEN 5 and Sony Sports TEN 4 Kannada.

The action is also live on FanCode.

The opening ceremony will feature a music performance, while former India all-rounder Roger Binny will unveil the trophy.

Thanya swims to new mark in 400m medley

AQUATICS

Sports Bureau

Thanya Shadakshari broke Richa Mishra's eight-year-old record while winning the women's 400m medley title at the National aquatics championships in Ahmedabad on Friday. Thanya clocked 4:56.78 to improve upon Richa's record by more than two seconds and log the 'best Indian time.'

Tanishi Gupta lowered the National mark twice as she went on to win the women's 100m butterfly gold. In the morning, she broke Nina Venkatesh's 2023 record of 1:02.51 by registering 1:01.97 in the heats.

She lowered it to 1:00.07 in the final to record the 'best Indian time.'

Tamil Nadu swimmers bagged the 4x100m medley mixed relay with a new mark.

The results (winners only):
Men: 200m freestyle: Aneesh S. Gowda (Kar) 1:50.65; **100m butterfly:** B. Benedicton Rohit (TN) 53.17.
Women: 100m backstroke: Pratyasa Ray (Odi) 1:04.75; **100m breaststrok**e: Saanvi Deshwal (Mah) 1:13.22.
100m butterfly: Tanishi Gupta (Kar) 1:00.07 (NMR, Old 1:01.97, Tanishi Gupta, 2026); **400m medley**: Thanya Shadakshari (Kar) 4:56.78 (NMR, Old 4:59.17, Richa Mishra, 2018).
4x100m medley mixed relay: Tamil Nadu (Dhivashree Kesavan, Danush Suresh, B. Benedicton Rohit, Deeksha Sivakumar) 4:01.87 (NMR, Old 4:03.44, Tamil Nadu, 2025).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Mannat triumphs

BENGALURU: Mannat Brar shot a seven-under 61 in the final round to claim the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour 2026 – Leg 8 title at the Bangalore Golf Club on Friday. Mannat, tied seventh overnight, made a bogey on the first hole, before carding eight birdies to finish on a high. Vidhatri Urs (seven-under 197) finished second, one shot behind the winner, while overnight leader Zara Anand (five-under 199) took third place.

Aakash, Tanishka reign supreme

MYSURU: K.J. Aakash and Tanishka Kalabhairav won the men's singles and girls U-17 singles titles respectively on the second day of the Karnataka State-ranking table tennis tournament for the LIC Cup, conducted by MDTTA at the University gymnasium hall, here on Friday. It was Tanishka's third title in the tournament.

Champions: Tanishka and Aakash with their reward.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: Men: Final: K.J. Aakash bt Abhinav K. Murthy 11-5, 13-11, 11-7, 11-5.
Semifinal: Aakash bt Raja Kundu 11-7, 11-5, 11-3, 11-8; Abhinav bt B.R. Gaurav 11-8, 8-11, 9-11, 13-11, 12-10, 6-11, 12-10.
U-17 girls: Final: Tanishka Kalabhairav bt Hiya Singh 11-8, 11-9, 11-7.
Semifinals: Tanishka bt Raashi V. Rao 11-8, 11-8, 11-8; Hiya bt Krisha P. Karkera 5-11, 11-5, 11-8,11-7.

SNAPSHOTS

Iniyan wins 360 One Global Chess Masters title

MUMBAI: GM Pa. Iniyan won the 360 One Global Chess Masters chess crown on Thursday with 7.5 points out of nine games. The 23-year-old from Erode, who was the top seed, scripted six wins and three draws. The tournament had 56 players from 16 countries, including 13 Grandmastersand 33 International Masters.

Iniyan receives his prize.

India loses to Germany in FIH Pro League

ROTTERDAM: India conceded two late goals to lose to reigning World champion Germany 1-2 in a FIH Pro League match here on Thursday.
The sides were goalless at half-time before Jugraj Singh, playing in his 100th International, struck from a penalty corner in the 38th minute to give India the lead.
It looked like India would notch up rare back-to-back wins against the Germans who, however, equalised four minutes from the final hooter through a penalty corner conversion by Justus Weigand (56th). Germany, then, snatched a win with Jakob Brilla (60th) scoring from yet another penalty corner. India next faces the Netherlands on Sunday.

Fulton with Jugraj.

The result:
Germany 2 (Justus Weigand 56, Jakob Brilla 60) bt India 1 (Jugaraj Singh 38).

Abhay-Velavan duo remains unbeaten in Asian squash

SARAWAK: Defending champion and top seed Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar defeated Hong Kong's Shing Fung Lam and Yat Long Chung 11-6, 11-5 to top the men's Pool A in the third Asian Doubles Squash Championships on Friday.

In women's doubles, second seed Joshna Chinappa and Rathika Seelan beat Singapore's Wai Lynn Au Yeong and Naisha Singh 11-7, 11-5 for their fourth win in as many rounds to top Pool B.

In mixed doubles, second seed Velavan and Joshna recorded three wins on the second day to top the five-team Pool B with a clean slate.

The results: Men: Pool A: Abhay Singh & Velavan Senthilkumar bt Shing Fung Lam & Yat Long Chung 11-6, 11-5. **Pool B:** Nasir Iqbal & Noor Zaman bt Rahul Baitha & Suraj Chand 11-5, 11-9.
Women: Pool B: Joshna Chinappa & Rathika Seelan bt Wai Lynn Au Yeong & Naisha Singh 11-7, 11-5; Nga Ching Cheng & Heylie Fung bt Janet Vidhi & Pooja Arthi 11-4, 9-11, 11-7.
Mixed: Pool B: Velavan & Joshna bt Wai & Jerome Au Jin Ming 11-7, 11-5; bt Oh Seojin & Mingyeong Heo 11-9, 11-9; bt MinWoo Lee & Eum Hwayeong 11-5, 11-7.

Australia seals T20I series against Bangladesh

CHATTOGRAM: Australia beat Bangladesh by seven runs in the second T20I on Friday to seal the three-match series.

The scores: Australia 196/5 in 20 overs (Renshaw 89 n.o, David 45, Nasum 2/27) bt Bangladesh 189/6 in 20 overs (Saif Hasan 42, Parvez Hosain 36, Towhid 35, Hardie 2/40).

Toss: Australia; **PoM:** Renshaw.

Miracle Star primed to repeat

BENGALURU: Miracle Star, who is in fine nick, may score an encore in the Chief Justice's Cup (1,800m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Saturday (June 20). False rails (width about 3.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 PRONTO PRONTO PLATE (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-00 p.m.: 1. Asterion (4) G. Vivek 56, 2. Black Irish (3) Pavan 56, 3. Incredible Luck (5) Yash 56, 4. Legacy Field (6) Akshay K 56, 5. The Archer (1) Sandesh 56 and 6. Digital Empress (2) Antony 54.5.
1. THE ARCHER, 2. LEGACY FIELD

2 BORSALINO PLATE (DIV. II), 1,400m, rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 2-30: 1. Fortis (10) S. Sachin 60, 2. Invincible (9) M. Rajesh K 59.5, 3. Finley (3) Lave Kumar 59, 4. Ziva (2) Neeraj 59, 5. Prince Of Wales (5) Antony 58.5, 6. Corinthian (6) Sandesh 58, 7. Eternal Glory (11) M. Prabhakaran 58, 8. Exceed (7) Hindu S 58, 9. Knotty Cruise (1) G. Vivek 57, 10. Master Way (8) Pranil 56.5 and 11. Alamgir (4) L.A. Rozario 56.
1. KNOTTY CRUISE, 2. PRINCE OF WALES, 3. ALAMGIR

3 PADDIWICK PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 25, 3-00: 1. Stella Maris (7) Pavan 62.5, 2. Art Of Romance (4) Kiran Rai 62, 3. Sea Diamond (5) Md. Ashraf 61.5, 4. Carter (3) Vishal 61, 5. Bruce Almighty (10) Neeraj 60, 6. Supernal (2) Rushal 60, 7. Blue Saint (6) Salman Khan 59, 8. Honeypot (1) M. Rajesh K 59, 9. Queen Maxima (11) Faizan Khan 59, 10. Lex Luthor (9) Antony 58.5 and 11. Shock And Awe (8) Darshan 56.5.
1. STELLA MARIS, 2. ART OF ROMANCE, 3. CARTER

4 D. KUMAR SIDDANNA MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-30: 1. Edison (7) G. Vivek 56, 2. Seize The Grey (2) S. Saqlain 56, 3. Waves Of Wonder (1) Rayan 56, 4. Evolvita (5) Darshan 54.5, 5. On The Rise (6) Pavan 54.5, 6. Royal Legacy (3) Suraj 54.5 and 7. Shutterfly (4) Sandesh 54.5.
1. SHUTTERFLY, 2. ON THE RISE

5 CHIEF JUSTICE'S CUP (1,800m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Duke Of Tuscany (11) G. Vivek 60, 2. Ramiel (7) Vaibhav 58.5, 3. Mayne Magic (4) Antony 55.5, 4. Miracle Star (6) Suraj 55.5, 5. Positano (12) Sandesh 55.5, 6. Golden Thunder (2) C. Umesh 54.5, 7. Star Of Night (5) Neeraj 54, 8. Galahad (8) Akshay K 52.5, 9. Kings Gambit (9) Yash 52.5, 10. Alfonsine (1) A. Asbar 51, 11. Gold Empire (10) Arul 51 and 12. Azalea (3) A. Prakash 49.5.
1. MIRACLE STAR, 2. ALFONSINE, 3. MAYNE MAGIC

6 PRABALO PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-30: 1. Agera (11) L.A. Rozario 60, 2. Bright Thunder (8) Akshay K 59, 3. Feeling Good (10) Vaibhav 55.5, 4. Aces Up (2) A. Ramu 53.5, 5. Brave Heart (6) Vinod Shinde 53.5, 6. Wincleaver (3) Sandesh 53, 7. Blazing Fire (7) Rayan 52.5, 8. Cascais (9) Shreyas S 52.5, 9. Double Your Money (1) A. Asbar 52.5, 10. Xaily (5) M. Rajesh K 52.5, 11. LG's Star (4) Jagadeesh 52 and 12. Inicio (12) Vishal Bunde 51.5.
1. BRIGHT THUNDER, 2. WINDCLEAVER, 3. DOUBLE YOUR MONEY

7 BORSALINO PLATE (DIV. I), 1,400m, rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Eagle Eye (2) S. Sachin 60.5, 2. Sicyon (7) Yash 58.5, 3. Splendid Dream (5) Shreyas S 57.5, 4. Valiant Stream (4) Akshay K 57.5, 5. Night Raider (8) Arvind K 56, 6. Stravinsky (9) Kiran Rai 56, 7. N R I Victory (3) Jagadeesh 55, 8. Perfect Attitude (6) Antony 55, 9. Glorious Strides (1) Neeraj 54.5 and 10. Goddess Of War (10) G. Vivek 54.
1. EAGLE EYE, 2. GODDESS OF WAR, 3. SICYON

Day's best: **MIRACLE STAR**
Double: **SHUTTERFLY – BRIGHT THUNDER**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.